KEEP STRONG

Right To Dissent Under Attack

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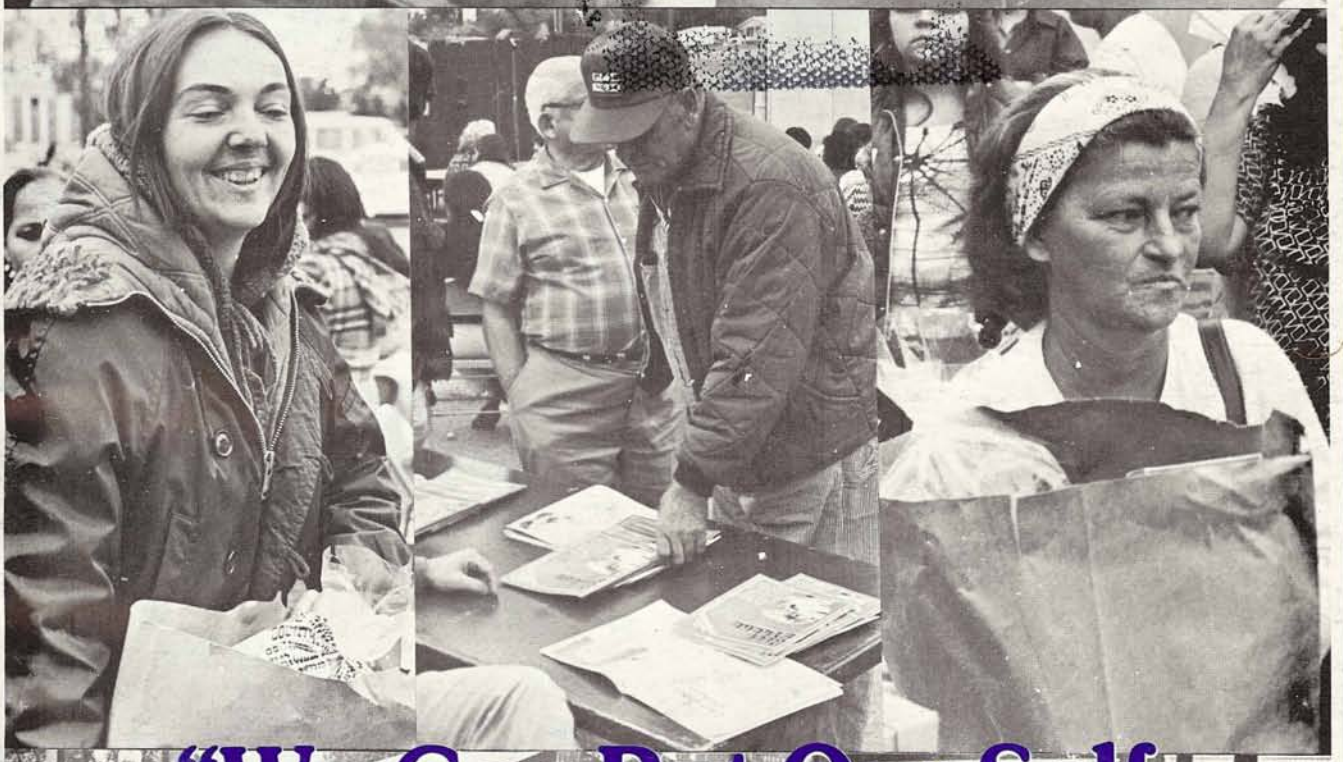

"We Can Put Our Self-Respect To Work And Organize For Our Survival."

In This Issue:

KEEP STRONG is published monthly by the Keep Strong Publishing Company, 1222 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60640 (312) 769-2087 Editor, Helen Shiller

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In This Issue

1. On November 20, over 500 people participated in the first Community Survival Conference in Stockton, California. See page 34.

2. Recently released FBI files show that the FBI planned and directed the raid that resulted in Fred Hampton's murder on December 4, 1969, as well as other extensive "dirty tricks" against the entire progressive movement. See article page 44 on the FBI and page 26 for a statement In Memory of Fred Hampton by ISC National Coordinator Slim Coleman.

3. Chicago's "Heart of Uptown Community" vows to build a block organization to take on the city and reverse the pattern of destruction in Uptown. See page 30.

4. The first installment of an interview with a fourth generation Irish-American on the history of the Irish from the potato famine to the New York experience, appears on page 39.

5. For a review of Merle Haggard's new album, see page 54.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT POLICY

President Carter has now submitted a bill to Congress that explains this administration's attitude toward unemployment. Carter has taken a weak bill and made it totally useless. There were two concepts in the original bill which made it a national policy on employment: the "right" to a job and the federal government as "employer of last resort." But these concepts have been purged from the original bill. Now the Carter-backed bill is simply a policy on unemployment; namely, that massive unemployment can be accepted.

The second step in the development of a national "unemployment policy" is the acceptance of large percentages of unemployment among Black people and Latinos. Unemployed and underemployed Whites are being mobilized to support the elimination of special programs guaranteeing the training and hiring of minorities through an appeal to racism. It seems like we will never learn.

There are as many Whites who are unemployed as Blacks. There are as many Whites on welfare as Blacks. There are as many White working in jobs that don't even pay enough to live as Blacks. The difference is that the percentage of Black people who are left out of the system is ten times as high as the percentage of Whites. That is because the racism in this country makes it acceptable to dump the misfortunes of the country primarily on Black people.

On the other hand, percentages don't mean much to you if you are one of the ones who happens to be White, and you are unemployed, getting cut off welfare or being driven from your community by urban renewal. If, because of racism, we allow, even support, national policies that are aimed at dumping the country's hard times on Black people, then we will find that

The Carter-backed unemployment bill is simply a policy on unemployment; namely, that massive unemployment can be accepted.

those policies will also affect millions of poor and working Whites. When you set the harvester in motion, it chews up everything it comes across, wheat or chaff, Black or White.

Through appeals to racism, the Carter administration is holding to a policy of national unemployment. Most Whites will believe that this unemployment applies to Black people, and will accept it. The equal number of Whites that get beat down without a means of survival by Carter's unemployment policy will be treated as if it does not exist.

Our solution is unity. We cannot accept policies that tolerate discrimination against Black people, or Latinos or Native Americans. Because those policies, once set in motion, will affect us, too. If we accept the genocide of people of color, then a lot of people with White skins will be taken down also.□

ON THE STREET

"Do you think the FBI is telling the truth now when they say that COINTELPRO (the program that illegally attacked community and political organizations) has ended?"

Milton Wheeler
N. Beacon

"I don't think so because during the civil rights movement I was involved in in the '50's, the FBI was brought into the junior colleges and students. One of my best friends who was working right along with me was an FBI man. So, everything is under cover now with the FBI, the CIA and so forth. A lot of times I'm afraid to speak on the phone because I might be bugged, and the public school, maybe they're bugging my phone to see if I might be sending out some information to the students that they shouldn't receive. So I feel that it's there."

Tim Lewerenz
N. Kenmore

"They aren't going to stop. They're going to keep on doing just what they've been doing. They tell that to the reporters, and they put it in newspapers and magazines to make the people believe it, but they aren't going to quit. They try to say that it's for the protection of the American people, but I don't believe that. I don't know what their inside motive is, but they aren't going to quit."

Sue Miner
N. Levitt

"I don't think the FBI tells the truth about anything. I think there's all kinds of things that nobody knows about but them."

Jeanette Stuart
W. Byron

"No, I don't. I think they're still spying on people, if they're releasing documents."

Sharon Lewis
N. Kenmore

"I don't think that America will ever stop spies or FBI agents from spying on you because they have to know your business. I guess they have to keep spies from other countries and stuff from coming in or to stop other groups like the Panthers or any other radical type of groups from organizing again. That's the American society. They want to keep things the way *they* want it. They don't want change. There isn't room for change here. So they have to have spies in order to keep America the way it is."

Lowell Ellingson
N. Christiana

"I don't believe the FBI. I don't believe anything the government says. The government's going to try and get away with as much as they can. Not just the FBI but all branches of the government, and they're telling the people what they want to hear, hoping they get away with it. We're finding the same thing here in Chicago with the scandals out at the airport and the taxicab companies. So what does Bilandic do to try and cover it up? Bring in some issue like nuclear fuel, which is important, but he's trying to get the people concerned in something else and their minds off the things that affect the government here."

Gladys Inglesias
N. Clark

"I don't think they're honest. I don't know, I just have that feeling. I don't believe them."

Sue Ginex
W. Wilson

"Not if they've gotten that much more documents since then. I don't think I would believe the FBI in the first place, but I mean if it's documented evidence then it's obvious that they're not finished—with whatever they're doing."

Jimmy Langston
S. Ingleside

"I figured if they was lying about the first time that they quit, then they're still doing it now."

Rhonda Keen
N. Ashland

"They lie. The government lies too much. They'll plot anything against a person just so they get higher ranked. I don't believe them. I think they're still spying. They want to be looked up to, you know, scare people so they'll do what they want them to do."

Victor Julius
N. Magnolia

"I don't think they have. The news I hear on the air, they're finding out a lot of stuff now. In fact, I would call Carter a dictator instead of a president. All I can say is I think things are still going on that shouldn't be going on. I heard on the air where some guy was on welfare, and he jumped out the window and killed himself because he had six kids and they cut him off welfare for two years."

Welfare Rights

Why Work?

(Chicago, Ill.) Ever since she and her husband separated two years ago, Wanda Brown has had to support her three children by working and receiving a supplement from public aid. Last month she got a letter from her caseworker saying she was being cut off because they had information that her husband was living with her and supporting her and the children.

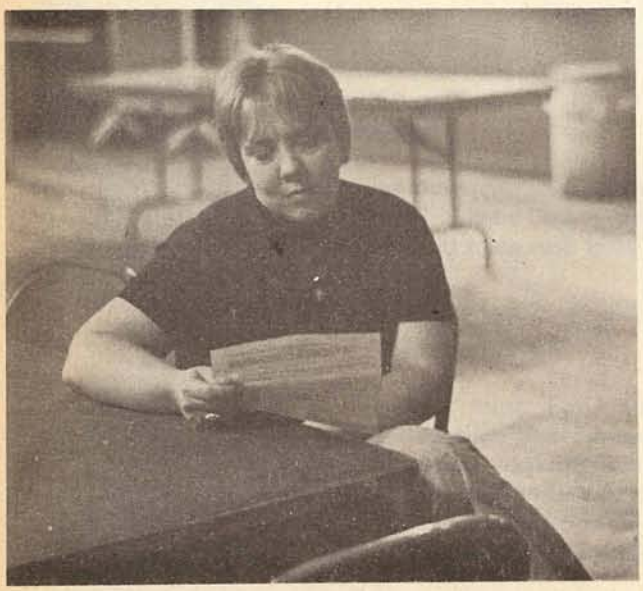
"They said my husband called them and said that he was living with me. They cut me off because of one phone call and never investigated to find out if it was true. The only reason my husband did that was to get back at me. He was pissed off because I wouldn't take him back.

"Welfare is just using it as an excuse to hassle me, because they're mad at me for quitting work. I started working at the Lincoln National Bank in May, 1976. Every time I got a raise, they would reduce my check *more* than the amount of the raise, plus they would increase the price of my food stamps.

"I went to the caseworker because I didn't understand how they figured out how much I was supposed to get. It just didn't make any sense to me. All the caseworker said was, 'You make a lot of money,' and she refused to explain it to me. I finally quit the job in July 1977. I tried working again at the Racine Fuel Company, but I had the same problems with public aid, so I had to quit there, too. The last job I had was at Edgewater Hospital. I was paying my mother $30 a week to watch my four-year-old, plus the travel expenses, and I was paying $146 for $170 worth of food stamps. I put it down in black and white for myself and figured out I was making $16 less by working than I would be getting on straight welfare.

"I told my caseworker why I quit, but she told me I should be working, and she's been mad at me ever since. Now they are trying to cut me off and accuse me of fraud without even investigating to find out if it's true."

Wanda has filed an appeal and is waiting now for the notice telling her the date of the hearing.□



Wanda Brown: "I put it down in black and white for myself and figured out I was making $16 less by working than I would be getting on straight welfare."

Where Is The Real Fraud?

(Chicago, Ill.) Candida Virella and her three children are on ADC. Back in May of 1976, Ms. Virella's check didn't come. She went to the public aid office and signed some papers.

"A few days later, they sent me a replacement check. I took it to my caseworker and he said to cash it, but that if I got the original check, to bring it to him. Then I did get the original check late, and brought it down to him. He had me sign the envelope, but didn't say what for."

Last month—one and a half years later—Candida got a notice from her caseworker, stating that both the original and the replacement check had been cashed and that the money must be repaid. To do this, they would cut her check by $52.83 a month for six months.

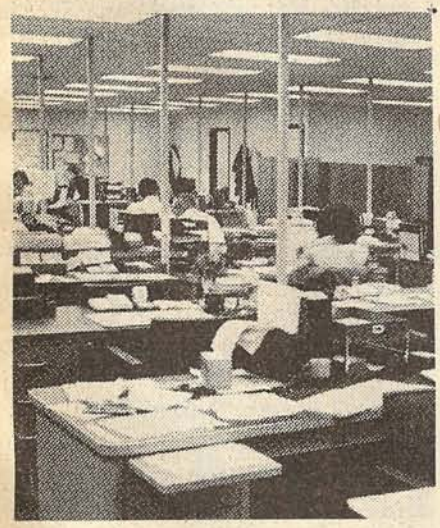
Candida appealed right away. At her hearing, the Department of Public Aid had no evidence whatsoever. They had no record of her receiving either of the checks, no copies of her signature, or the check she was accused of cashing.

Asked how this could happen, a community welfare advocate explained that the warrant in-

vestigations unit, located downtown, sends a letter to the caseworker, instructing him or her to cut their client's checks. The caseworker is expected to carry this out without seeing any evidence. Right now, Candida is waiting for the decision on her appeal.

Similarly, Theodric James did not get his public aid check, his food stamps or his medical card last June. After notifying his caseworker, he went to the public aid office and signed several forms. At that time he received emergency food stamps and a medical card. The following week he received a replacement check.

Then in August, the warrant investigations unit sent Mr. James a letter. They said their investigation showed that he cashed the original check. He would have to pay them back with monthly deductions taken from his check for the next six months. Mr. James filed an appeal. "With my being on a special diet, I have to spend more than my food stamps will buy, because diabetic food is so expensive. If they cut my check, I can't buy my food."



Inside a welfare office: It's a daily practice of public aid to accuse and take action against recipients with no evidence and no due process of law.

At the hearing, a so-called handwriting specialist, Edmund Sullivan, presented as evidence xerox copies of the signatures on on the two checks. While Sullivan claimed the xeroxes proved that both checks were signed by the same person, the two signatures were distinctly different.

According to the same community welfare advocate, "The outcome of both Mr. James' and Ms. Virella's appeals will probably be in favor of the recipients, but that does nothing to stop the daily practice of public aid, which continues to accuse and take action against recipients with no evidence, and no due process of law, while covering up where the real fraud is taking place.□

Unemployment

Boycott Jewel

(Chicago, Ill.) On Thanksgiving eve at the Jewel store on Cermak and Wolcott in this city's largely Latino neighborhood of Pilsen, about 80 picketers, representing the Latino Committee for Equal Employment, for the second time in one week, asked Jewel customers not to shop there. Jewel, they say, has not lived up to its promises for "equal opportunity" and "affirmative action."

The issue is jobs. While at least 20 per cent of Chicago's population is Latino, only six per cent of Jewel's employees are Latino. The picket, like the one held the previous Saturday, was effective. Approximately 50 per cent of the customers at the picketed store went elsewhere to do their shopping, in support of the equal opportunity demands.

The boycott against Jewel comes on the heels of a similar four month boycott which forced A & P to agree to hire 20-25 per cent Latinos. In addition, an affirmative action committee was set up, which included representatives of Latino community organizations.

Thanksgiving eve at the Jewel store on Cermak and Wolcott; 80 picketers representing the Latino Committee for Equal Employment asked Jewel customers not to shop there.

Ramiro Borja, spokesperson for the Latino Committee for Full Employment, explained the issues in the boycott: "These stores are very important since our greatest outlay is on food. . . . But they will only hire Latinos at the lowest level, baggers. There is a fantastic turnover. They hire Latinos and then fire them on the 29th day so they can't get into the union." Mr. Borja pointed out that the union

is actually a company union that has gone along with the management practices of hiring people with "connections" and making it impossible for Latinos to get enough seniority to get better positions in the food chain. "Seniority is based on hours worked, and they just won't give the Latinos the hours so they can get the seniority."

According to Ramiro Borja, the A & P boycott set the stage for the action against Jewel. A & P was particularly vulnerable to the demands of the community because they were opening a new store in the heart of the Latino community. When demands were later drawn up against Jewel, its management had to take the Latino Employment Committee seriously.

In October the Pilsen community presented the following demands to Jewel:

- 20 per cent of Jewel's work force must be Latinos;
- 20 per cent of Jewel's management positions must be filled by Latinos, since managers do the buying. Presently there is only one Latino store manager in the Jewel chain;
- The racial and ethnic background of Jewel's employees must reflect that of the community in which each store is located. At present, many Latino community residents who make up the majority of shoppers in many Jewel stores find an insufficient number of Latinos working in those stores;
- Jewel must employ 360 new Latino workers as a sign of good faith;
- Jewel must put a Latino affirmative action officer in charge of employment.

Rudy Lozano of CASA-General Brotherhood of Workers, noted that the struggle has to become city-wide. The demands of the Latinos represent the needs of all workers because of the demand that each store reflect the make-up of the community it is in, and because the winning of the demands would mean more jobs in general at Jewel. Commenting on the significance of the Jewel boycott, Lozano stated:

"A lot of the hesitance by Jewel and many of the corporations has been since Bakke. They've gone as far as to reverse the process. Now minority communities are forced to wage a struggle to maintain existing programs as well as to expand to new affirmative action programs."

The boycott against Jewel is expected to be a long one. "We will continue the struggle until we reach a satisfactory agreement."

The struggle against Jewel is expected to be a long one. Mr. Borja pointed out that the Farmworkers were never able to get the grapes and lettuce off the shelf. But as Pablo Torres, President of APO said, "We will continue the struggle until we reach a satisfactory agreement. We can wait as long as they can. We were very patient with the A & P stores; it took a long time to settle, but it was worth the wait."□

Tenants' Rights

Tenants Enforce Their Rights

(Chicago, Ill.) On December 1, the owner and tenants of 4513 N. Magnolia entered into a rent agreement, bringing to a close the first stage in a year long battle over tenants' rights. The struggle for decent conditions set a number of precedents for the Uptown community. The tenants group was recognized as the sole representative for people now in the building, and the owner is now obliged to follow a repair plan designed by the tenants themselves. The fight for decent housing was marked

by bitter conflict with the landlords, Josephine and Karl Hinz.

The history of 4513 N. Magnolia has often been cited as a classic in the Uptown housing struggle. For nearly a decade the building had been owned, operated and controlled for the benefit of Charles Roberts in what normally would have been a set up for a fire or demolition. (See "The Housing Conspiracy" in KEEP STRONG, March, 1977). Roberts lost the building unexpectedly, and interest in the title passed to Hinz in December 1976.

Only three weeks after Hinz began managing the building, he filed eviction actions to throw all the tenants out. One week later, the boiler was shut down, and the tenants were without heat. They quickly organized with the help of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union and filed formal legal action against Hinz to stop the evictions and to get more control over the running of the building. Circuit Court Judge Schaller, responding to the threat to the health and safety of the building's occupants, broke new legal ground by giving full custody of the building to the tenants' attorney, James P. Chapman. For the next five months, the tenants managed 4513 N. Magnolia during which time the building became fully occupied. Emergency repairs were completed, and several apartments received long overdue maintenance.

In June, Judge Schaller was required to relieve Chapman of custody and return control to Hinz. Hinz failed to respond to the tenants' basic demands, so they carried out a unanimous rent withholding action. Rents were all deposited in a bank escrow account, and payments were made for emergency repairs and essential services.

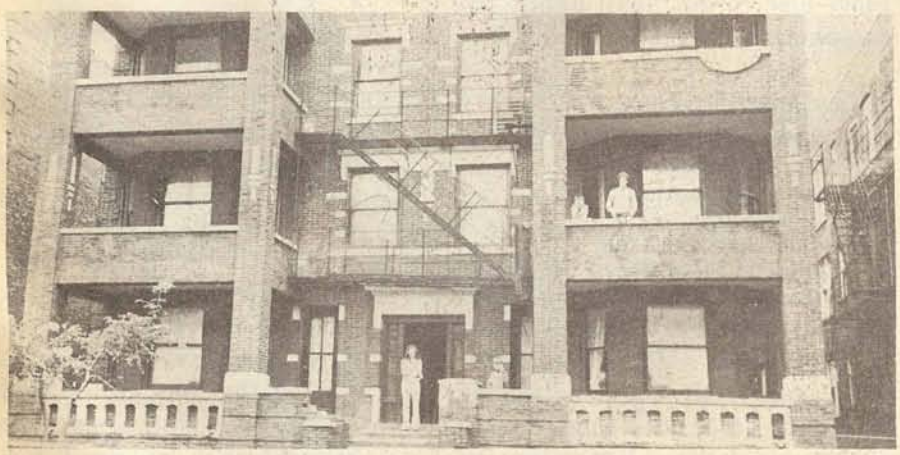
In July and August, Hinz tried repeatedly to break the tenants' unity. One tenant was threatened by nine strangers who came to try to collect rent. The tenant-elected manager was offered a payoff job if he would sell the other tenants out. A stream of insurance investigators and "prospective owners" kept knocking on the door. Finally, according to one tenant, "We sat down and set up policies, including security against uninvited strangers. That worked well after we showed one set of prospective owners out the door."

Throughout this time, attorneys for both sides kept negotiating for an agreement. As tenant George Atkins described it, "We had a fight on two levels, a quiet one with Al Rabichow (Hinz' attorney) and a potentially violent one with people Hinz kept trying to force on the tenants. We all watched each other's backs, and when the second set of evictions came we were ready."

In a final move for absolute control, Hinz tried again to throw the tenants out. That legal action was stopped cold. Efforts by one of the attorneys on the tenants' team, Karen Hamity, led to a precedent-setting decision for all tenants in the county, reaffirming their right to a jury trial in any eviction case. In the 4513 case, housing code violations had been expertly documented, financial records were well kept, and preparation for jury trials were already underway to bring up clearly the issue of a tenant's right to decent housing.

The stalled evictions led to a new round of negotiations which lasted months but finally ended in the dropping of all eviction suits. A settlement was reached in November, signed by both tenants and the owners. It included a basic plan for repair of the building, protection from rent raises and a recognition of the right of the tenants to withhold rents if the conditions continued to deteriorate.

"We have made it clear that tenants in a building in this neighborhood have the potential for control. We stood by each other in this, and that forced the concessions that the landlord gave up. Now we have to watch. Any attempt to back off of the commitments means we will assert our rights once more. What I'm saying is that we have to make this work, the tenants have to enforce their own rights," one tenant firmly stated. □



4513 N. Magnolia: "We have to make this work; the tenants have to enforce their own rights."

Utilities

Utilities Customers Harassed

(Chicago, Ill.) In August 1977, the building at 4751 N. Beacon was boarded up. Tenants had been gone for several weeks. A few fires had already been started on the premises. Vandals were breaking in and out regularly. Yet, Mattie Clemons got an estimated bill for electric service that month. She had moved out eight months before.

Sergio Guerra received a short letter in November from Northwest Collectors, Inc. They were threatening to contact his employer about a bill for over $100 they say was owed to Peoples Gas. Representatives for Mr. Guerra had already written the company requesting an investigation of the bill because he had ended service many months earlier and the final bill was unreasonably high. No response was ever made to the letter.

Junior Webb found out about a telephone in his name from his employer. He hadn't had a private phone for years, but a letter came to his workplace from a collection agency demanding $100 for service at his "Grayslake home." "I got this letter for a phone up in Grayslake, but I never lived there in my life," Mr. Webb reported. "I called the phone company and talked to someone who said they understood. But pretty soon after that, I just kept getting threats from these bill collectors. When I called them they wouldn't listen, they just kept demanding money from me that I didn't owe."

Utilities in Illinois have made a lot of people believe that there are no controls over the gas, electric or phone companies in this state. The companies are privately owned. The rates they charge are way above what most people know is fair—and still getting higher. They make huge profits. Worst of all, there's no place else to get heat, light and telephone service.

Mattie Clemons was still getting her usual estimated bill for electric service—eight months after she had moved out of the building.

The electric company never recorded Mattie Clemons' request to cut off service after she moved. Peoples Gas estimated most of Mr. Guerra's bills so that it is almost impossible now to determine what is accurate. And finally, someone used Mr. Webb's name when they called in for service. Had anyone taken 10 minutes from the company to check out what the facts were, a lot of trouble would have been avoided.

Company policy is basically to collect money, any way they can. Often people who don't owe anything pay just to keep the service on and to avoid the intimidation. Others, like Ms. Clemons, Mr. Guerra and Mr. Webb, stand firm. They can and do win some concessions. Mr. Webb has been promised in writing that no further harassment will occur, and Illinois Bell apologized for their mistake. Neither Ms. Clemons nor Mr. Guerra will pay the bills they received—until a full investigation is made. And they expect the investigations will either reduce or eliminate these bills.

The victory of the people who have fought the companies has been more a lesson than a real change, however. As Junior Webb described it when he found out that he would get an apology from the phone company, "That doesn't mean much. They never had a right to get on my back in the first place. It never should have taken this long to find that out. But I don't expect that will stop them from doing it to other people. I just hope they don't take it either."□

Legal Rights

Stockton Residents Demand Legal Services

(Stockton, Cal.) Tens of thousands of people, both young and old, out of work, and tens of thousands of housing units rated substandard by the city building department, are the conditions which serve as the background for a grassroots effort to increase community control over the local California Rural Legal Assistance office here.

The California Rural Legal Assistance was organized in 1967 to provide legal services to poor and working people in California's rural communities. With the use of federal funds, lawyers were recruited and trained, and offices were set up across the state.

In its first few years, the agency quickly gained the reputation of a true fighter for the people. The young attorneys represented people against landlords, greedy businessmen and welfare officers, and in general, put themselves squarely on the side of justice. The agency was attacked by Ronald Reagan, then governor, and Spiro Agnew as a radical group. Funding was threatened several times and eventually cut.

In recent years, however, the agency has come under increasing criticism from the community, having merged into the legal aid office two years ago. Critics believe that it is being used by young attorneys as a stepping stone for their careers while the concrete needs of hundreds of thousands of California's residents are being ignored. Several attempts by Stockton residents to make the office more responsive to community problems have been stopped when the attorneys refused to cooperate.

Lucio Reyes, chairman of the Community Advisory Board; addressing the crowd at the Stockton Community Survival Conference, he urged everyone present to participate in making the CRLA work for the people.

In mid-September of this year, over 30 people met at Garden Acres Community Center on Stockton's far east side to form a community advisory board. Attorneys present argued that the group did not represent the entire city of Stockton, and a community board could not be established. Alberto Saldamana, state director of the program, listened to the demands of the residents, angry after hundreds of attempts to get help with social security, housing, credit and work-related situations.

Saldamana sat quietly when the majority of those in attendance voted to elect a twelve person advisory board (later to be expanded to 30). Lucio Reyes, a veteran of many farmworker union organizing drives, was elected Chairperson of the board. Less than one week later, newly elected board members received a letter from state director Saldamana. The letter informed them that they had moved too quickly, that an advisory board had not been formed, and more discussions would have to take place.

Fighting the lack of respect the California Rural Legal Assistance office had shown for Stockton's poor and working people, spokespersons for the newly organized board have stated that they will ignore Saldamana's letter and proceed to organize the board and carry out a program to monitor the activities of the local CRLA lawyers. At the November 20 Stockton Community Survival Conference, Lucio Reyes addressed the crowd, explaining the purpose of the CRLA and underscoring the real need for it. He urged everyone present to come out to the board meeting to participate in making the program work for the people.□

On The Job

No Raise For Cabbies

Chicago, Ill.) "What raise? There was no raise for the drivers," is the most common response of Chicago's cabbies when asked what they think of the Mayor Bilandic/Jane Byrne controversy over last July's taxicab fare increase.

On November 14, 1977, Jane Byrne, then the Consumer Sales Commissioner, released a July memorandum to herself, charging that Mayor Bilandic "greased the way" for Yellow and Checker Cab Companies to "prepare" figures to justify a fare hike. According to Byrne's memo, Bilandic was aware of an independent report which showed no need for a raise in rates at the time the deal was made at a secret meeting at Midway Airport between Bilandic, officers of the two cab companies and Byrne herself.

Jane Byrne, once a loyal Daley Democrat, gets mixed reviews from the drivers. Most of the cab drivers interviewed by KEEP STRONG seem to think she's telling the truth. Others are skeptical. "How come she didn't say anything about it last July?" one independent driver wondered, while another maintained, "She's just as much of a counterfeit as the rest."

Others said, "She had nothing to lose—she knew she was going to lose it anyway [her job]. . . . She waited because she was defending herself. She wasn't going to be the scapegoat," countered a woman driver with quite a few years of driving experience. This same driver noted that although the cab industry was turned upside down during Byrne's reign as Consumer Sales Commissioner—with an experiment on leasing cabs transformed into a full-blown operation with 70 per cent of the cabs in the city now leased—this process had been started before she was appointed.

Bilandic, on the other hand, finds little support among the drivers. Though no drivers interviewed thought he did it to avert a strike, it was this role that Bilandic pictured himself playing. "What strike was there to settle? Only 30 per cent of the drivers are in the union. He did it for power. 'I'll do a favor for you if you do something for me'," figured one driver, new to "pulling the flag," but a resident of Chicago for 47 years.

Was the 35 cent a flag pull raise justified? A five year veteran put it this way: "The increase didn't help me. My lease went up $2.60 a day. On commission cabs the company take 25 cents right off the top and 50 per cent of what's left. If they hadn't taken away the extras, we might have made something. [Under the old agreement 20 cents was added for every passenger after the first.] We're doing the work, getting hassled, getting tickets and not realizing the benefits. We're paying 10 cents more for the no-lead gas, and it just went up another three cents for the RTA." (Lease drivers pay for their own gas.) One commission driver estimated he was losing $35-40 a week since the rates were increased. "And everyone is asking for a handout at the garage. If you don't play their game, then you're out."

So from the drivers' point of view the rate hike was not justified. As for the company? "They weren't losing money—

"The increase didn't help me. . . . We're doing the work, getting hassled, getting ticketed and not realizing the benefits."

they're never losing or they wouldn't be in business. Where are they losing money? They can't pinpoint any areas. When they need parts they don't get new parts, they take parts off old cabs. Checker [which owns Yellow Cab] owns its own insurance company. Its overhead is substantially lowered. Checker Motors makes the cars. The only thing they use outside of Checker is Texaco and Firestone, and David Marken Industries [which owns Checker] has a lot of stock in them, too."

Some have asked, "Isn't this controversy between Mayor Bilandic and Jane Byrne just privileged infighting?"

Time and time again, however, the drivers come back to what they say is the main issue: their biggest losses and the companies' biggest gains came about because of the switchover to leased cabs. Under the commission system, a driver gets 42 to 50 per cent of the fare he or she books, while a lease driver pays $33 per shift, no matter how much he or she brings in. Besides having to pay for their own gas, lease drivers have to pay a $100 security bond in case of accidents, a dollar a day for a dispatcher radio ($20 for installation) and another dollar for air conditioning. On top of this, there's the loss of benefits: no insurance, no vacations, no pension, no workman's compensation.

These losses add up to dollars and cents but the real loss is in human terms. "After all these years [14 with Yellow Cab], I don't know whether I'll have a cab from one day to the next. They took my cab away three times because I didn't work seven days a week. Last week I paid $33 to have the cab parked in front of my house one day. This morning I didn't get started until 11:30 because I needed to rest. I feel like a machine, not like a man."

Since the leases have begun, the company has kept these drivers out of the union, maintaining they are independent operators and therefore not eligible for the union. The union filed an unfair labor practices suit and the National Labor Relations Board ruled that indeed the lease drivers were employees. The company then filed an appeal with the Seventh Court of Appeals, from which a decision has yet to be reached.

Whatever their views on the union, each and every driver agreed to one thing: the lease drivers need representation. Would they form their own organization so as not to be as powerless as they were this past summer? The reply of two young drivers was simply, "That's a good question, a real good question."□

Police Watch

Badge # 14927

(Chicago, Ill.) Twice in the last two months, Uptown resident Bill Talkowski has been physically abused by a 23rd district policeman, wearing badge # 14927. Both incidents involved alleged traffic violations.

On Thursday night, October 20, Bill was driving west on Montrose when he was pulled over, supposedly for speeding. As he pulled over, three more police cars arrived on the scene. Bill got out of the car, and immediately a policeman wearing badge #14927 grabbed the hand in which he was holding his keys. The cop then went into Bill's pocket and took out his wallet. When he saw the security badge and gun permit from Bill's job as a security guard and investigator, he began asking him where the gun was. Bill told him he only carries his gun when working, but he kept asking him the same thing. Each time Bill denied having the gun, badge #14927 would press Bill's hand until the keys would cut into it, and then he'd punch him in the stomach. Eventually the police let Bill go and didn't even give him a speeding ticket.

On Sunday, November 20 at around 2:00 in the morning, Bill was returning home after going to his brother's wedding. He had to turn around at the dead end at Malden and the Sunnyside Mall. Bill parked the car, and while walking to his apartment building, the same policeman wearing badge #14927, who had been parked on the Mall, called him over and told him he was going to give him three tickets—one for reckless driving (because he claimed Bill went around the dead end at 60 miles an hour!), having no city sticker (Bill had just bought the car the day before) and having a loud muffler. Badge #14927 again

Bill Talkowski, showing where he came around the dead end—"at 60 miles an hour." Or was it just a policeman's grudge?

started asking him about his gun, and when Bill said he didn't have it, he grabbed him, pushed him up against the car and handcuffed him. The accompanying officer, policewoman E.R. Welenheim, knocked the cigarette out of Bill's mouth with her night stick, severely bruising his lip. Bill told them there was no reason to arrest him. After a radio check showed no outstanding warrants, they released him.

Bill thinks badge #14927 has a grudge against him because Bill witnessed him yank a 10-year-old by the hair and shove her into a squad car on the Sunnyside Mall about a week before the October 20 encounter on Montrose Avenue. Bill quickly informed the girl's mother, who has since filed a complaint.

Bill too, has filed a complaint against badge #14927 and his policewoman accomplice, E.R. Welenheim. In fact, Bill urges everyone involved in this kind of police abuse to do the same. "The best thing is for people to start filing complaints. When they [the police] are sick of all the complaints, maybe they will do something about it. Something has to be done. The police are getting out of order. They're too loose with their hands. They're out looking for trouble when they're the ones starting the trouble. An elderly man in the neighborhood told me he was going to move because things have gotten so bad. And he thinks the police are behind it. If they'd start suspending some officers, they'd start to think before they'd be beating people and putting them in the hospital."□

Another Police Killing

(Chicago, Ill.) For the fourth time in as many months, a Chicago youth has been killed by Chicago's finest. On December 3, a southwest side 15-year-old was fatally shot in the head by a Chicago policeman. Once again, the police story is: "an accident."

According to the police report, David Karpiel of 5521 S. Mayfield Avenue was shot accidentally, through the window of the car he was riding in, by policeman Robert Doneska. Doneska claims he slipped on some ice and his gun discharged. David Karpiel was shot once in the head.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Doneska and his partner, John Dryer, had begun their shift late that Saturday night, when they saw the car in which Karpiel was a passenger run a red light. They chased the car, which they say turned into an alley and stopped. They got out of their squad car and approached the car with guns drawn.

"Doneska had his head on the car door and was ordering the occupants out," Lt. Michael Halko, Chicago Lawn district watch commander, said when

David Karpiel

"he lost his footing and his gun discharged."

David Karpiel, who was a sophomore at Kennedy High School and a part-time cook in a neighborhood snack shop, was pronounced dead on arrival at Holy Cross Hospital.

While Officer Doneska remains on duty, the Chicago police department's Office of Professional Standards says it is investigating the shooting "until all the facts are known."

Meanwhile, the police shooting of 14-year-old Tyrone Neal on October 20, 1977 has been ruled accidental by the police department. Neal was shot in the head by patrolman Frederic Everly as he was being frisked on the street, along with two companions. An eye-witness to that shooting said, "I didn't see anybody do anything to make that officer shoot."□

Education

No Money – No Education

(Chicago, Ill.) Richie Bies is the six-year-old son of Linda Bies and Mike Johnson, his stepfather. He's a talkative kid, not at all shy and a good listener. You can tell by the way he knows the stories his parents read him that he wants to learn how to read himself. Last year doctors at Michael Reese Hospital evaluated Richie thoroughly and found him to be both epileptic and an emotionally disturbed child. According to the doctors, his development is about three years behind what it should be.

While his family was living in Missouri last year, Richie attended kindergarten. His parents think the school shouldn't have passed him but it did. So this year, when they moved back up to Chicago, they went to Stockton School, the neighborhood school on Montrose and Beacon, to enroll Richie in the first grade. Linda and Mike met with the school psychologist because they felt he should be in a special educational program.

Though the medical and psychological records sent from Michael Reese to Stockton clearly showed that Richie should be in a special program where he could get more individual attention, Ms. Janowski, the psychologist, explained that the school board psychiatrist would have to make the evaluation and ultimate decision.

The reason for this delay was that Richie would have to be approved to get a special education grant. His needs would have to go unmet because his mother was on public aid and didn't have the hundreds of dollars it takes to pay for a special program. The runaround that Mike and Linda got from this point on was only surpassed by the insensitivity Richie received while attending first grade classes, awaiting the decision on the grant.

You can tell by the way Richie Bies knows the stories his parents read to him, that he wants to learn how to read himself.

Linda would be called two or three times a week by the school, telling her to pick up Richie. The teacher, Ms. Smith, would say he was making loud noises, having seizures or that she could not control him. One day Linda was called up and told that Richie had been missing for quite some time from his classroom. When Linda hurriedly went over to the school she found him sitting in a hallway crying. She wondered how this could happen. "The kid sits right next to her desk—how can he leave without her seeing him go?"

Mike recounted how they would send him home with homework he couldn't do. He's lucky he can count to six." It was pretty clear that something was happening at school that was upsetting Richie. (Mike and Linda didn't know exactly what because they weren't allowed to sit in on a class.) Either too much pressure was being put on him to do the work, or the other kids "would lay on him" because they thought he was retarded. Mike pointed out that "unless someone gets him upset, Richie doesn't go into fits."

Meanwhile, Ms. Janowski suggested that Linda and Mike look into the program at Children's Memorial Hospital, but when they went there, they were told Richie was not the right age. Children's suggested Ravenswood Hospital on Wilson and Winchester. But Ravenswood was "out of the district." The family pediatrician recommended the Klingberg School on Kedzie and Peterson. When Mike and Linda informed the school psychologist of an appointment set for them to go to Klingberg, she told them not to even keep the appointment. It would do no good until the school board psychiatrist approved the funds.

With Richie being sent home more than he was in class, Mike and Linda finally told Mr. Gallagher, the principal at Stockton, that they would keep Richie at home, even if they were fined for keeping him out of school.

Even after being notified on November 30 that Richie had been approved for the special educational grant, Linda and Mike are still skeptical and bitter, and are expecting further delays in placing Richie in the

kind of program he needs. "It's not only poor kids who have this problem; it's just the poor kids who get the runaround. It costs $4800 to put a child in a special program. If you're rich, you just slap the money on the table and you're in."□

Lumumba-Jackson Community Learning Center

(Chicago, Ill.) In the midst of Chicago's near northside community, the Lumumba-Jackson Community Learning Center is daily meeting the educational needs of Black and poor youth in the community. The Learning Center is a model high school, with a fully accredited program which not only seeks to develop the academic skills of its students but to involve young people in community organizations which serve the survival needs of oppressed people.

Joan Foster-McCarty, educational director of the Learning Center explained the purpose of the school this way: "We recognize that it is important for our young people to understand the tasks ahead of us in determining the destiny of our community and our lives as oppressed people."

The academic program of the school (Skills Development Component) is aimed at developing the reading and math levels of each young person while offering science, social studies, vocational studies and other required elective studies, which make for a well-rounded curriculum. The students attending the school, some of whom were "turned off or turned out" by the public schools, receive more individual attention than they would get in the public schools. Classes are limited to 15 students each.

This individual attention does not necessarily come just from the teacher. Johnny Logan, who quit Cooley High because it was "too big and too wild," compared the education at the Lumumba-Jackson Learning Center to his previous schooling:

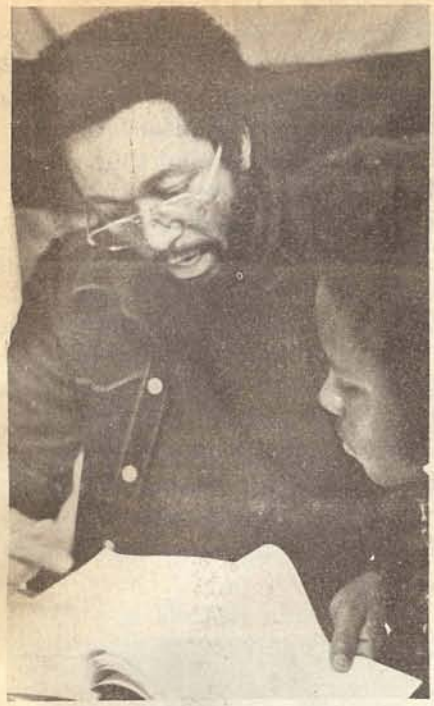
"At Cooley, if a majority of the students understood the work, then the teacher went on, and some people were left behind. Here, everybody is learning, no one stays behind unless they want to. If someone doesn't understand something, then the teacher will get another student to help them out. Math is my favorite subject, and I'd be helping other people who aren't quite as fast."

Community involvement is achieved through the Community Development Component of the school. Each student, before he or she graduates, is required to do an internship at one of several community organizations. These include the "Minizone" Project (a model neighborhood development program); the Omega Food Co-op; the Flannery Senior Health Care Clinic; the People's Community School (an after school tutoring program for children ages 5-16) and the Tranquility Memorial Organization, the umbrella organization which initiated these community survival programs and the Lumumba-Jackson Learning Center itself.

The third component of the school's program is the Career Component. Here the students are involved in a discovery process of finding and setting life goals by exploring vocational careers and actively working with professionals in a given field.

All three components are enhanced by weekly field trips and/or guest speakers. The concept here is "the whole world

Joan Foster McCarty with her art class: "It is important for our young people to understand the tasks ahead of us in determining the destiny of our community."



Students attending the school receive more individual attention than they would get in the public schools.

is a classroom." A recent program was an observance to pay homage to those who have given their lives to the liberation of Black people—leaders such as Fred Hampton, George Jackson and Patrice Lumumba.

The Learning Center was named after Lumumba, the African leader, and Jackson, the prison activist and organizer, because these two people provide "excellent role models for youth and adults alike, both having sacrificed their lives towards the making of a world where all can develop to their highest potential."

The Lumumba-Jackson Community Learning Center is currently accepting applications for the second quarter of the 77-78 school term. In addition, a fundraising drive is underway to raise money for the school's scholarship program. For more information, visit the school at 539 W. North Ave. or call (312) 944-5670 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.□

Health News

A National Health Service?

(Chicago, Ill.) A Chicago coalition for a National Health Service formed early this month at a well-attended meeting on December 3. The broad cross section of health, community and labor activists was addressed by the renowned Dr. Vicente Navarro from John Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore. Navarro pointed out that there are three strategies for addressing the national health care crisis in this country, all of which are being discussed in Congress. They include national health insurance plans, national health security plans and a national health service.

The very powerful insurance companies, which Navarro pointed out control much of banking and industry in this country already, are pushing for a national health insurance bill which would allow the insurance companies themselves to provide the insurance.

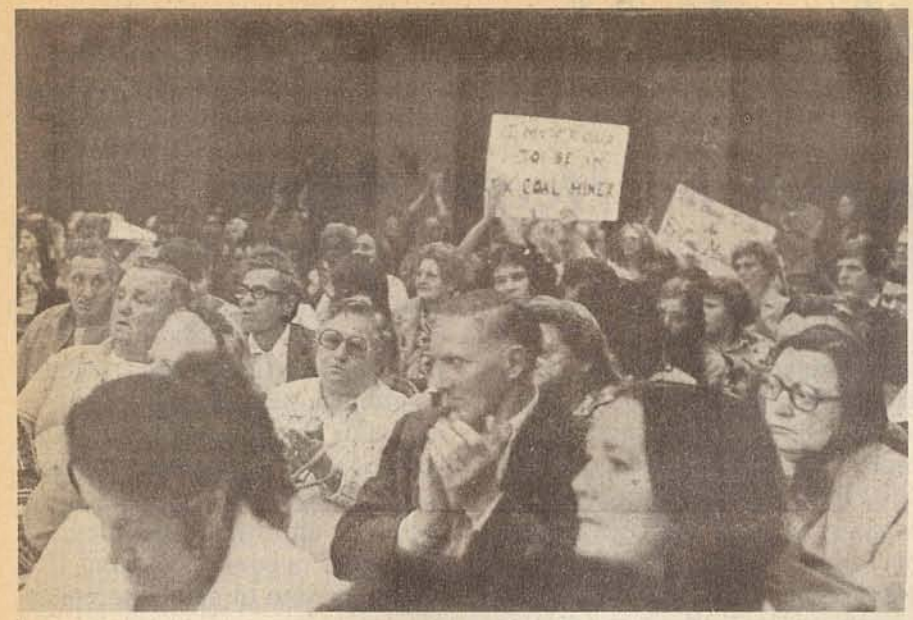
The Kennedy-Corman bill, now in the Senate, proposes a national health insurance bill which would take national health insurance out of the hands of the private insurance companies, and put it under government control.

Both of these approaches would leave the control of health care in the same hands as it presently lies, according to Navarro, although the Kennedy-Corman approach might make some slight improvements. But neither would address getting quality health care to those who need it the most. The health industry will not move its facilities and operations, its hospitals and clinics, to poor and working class neighborhoods, just because the people in those neighborhoods have been given national health insurance. Nor will there be a training program to produce the numbers of doctors and trained medical personnel needed to expand the health system to meet the needs

Ron Dellums, progressive California congressman, has proposed a national health service, which would begin to fundamentally change health care priorities.

of oppressed people. And, the refusal of the now privately controlled health system to address preventive health care or occupational diseases will not be altered.

According to Navarro, and the majority of the several hundred people attending the December 3 meeting, only a national health service would begin to fund-



Uptown residents demanding a community health clinic at a hearing at Cook County Hospital. The proposed national health service would provide free health care through a series of community-controlled, federally funded clinics, close to where people work and live.

amentally change health care priorities. Such a service, as proposed by progressive California Congressman Ron Dellums, would provide free health care through a series of community controlled, federally funded community clinics, close to where people work and live. With the addition of regional hospitals serving a cluster of several of these neighborhood clinics, the national health service system would provide adequate crisis care while seriously attacking the problems of preventive health care and occupational disease. Most important, health care would be made available on an equal basis to those who need it.

Coalition organizers point out that without the heavily financed campaigns of the insurance companies, the Dellums National Health Service approach is the first choice of nearly 30 per cent of Americans by the latest polls, with the number of supporters steadily rising. The Chicago coalition plans further action to build momentum for the Dellums bill in the next few months.□

"Call Another Ambulance"

(Chicago, Ill.) "The fire department ambulance is supposed to be for people without transportation." But when Wanda Mann needed the fire department ambulance it came—but would not take her to the hospital.

Friday morning, November 18, Wanda was getting her children and her neighbor's children ready for school when she became ill and collapsed on the kitchen floor. Her upstairs neighbor at 4411 N. Magnolia quickly called the police emergency number and asked for a fire department ambulance. About 15 minutes later, the ambulance arrived from the station around the block on Wilson and Racine.

When the paramedics arrived and found out that Wanda's doctor was at Thorek Medical Center (American Hospital) on Irving Park west of Broadway, they said they could not take her because it was out of their district. With Wanda unconscious on a living room chair, her brother Wayne insisted. The firemen admitted that they could take someone to a hospital outside of the area if it was an "emergency." "What do you think this is?" Wayne asked. Coldly, the firemen responded, "Call another ambulance. It would be a lot simpler—there is too much paper work." Not wanting to waste any more time, the neighbor upstairs again called for an ambulance, this time a private company, Tower Ambulance.

Wanda Mann and her daughter Lisa. "If it had been my kid, and someone would have denied her service, I would be in jail right now.

Wanda is out of the hospital now, but the bitterness of the experience remains. "If it had been my kid and someone would have refused her service, I would be in jail right now. I'll never call them again. If my dog got sick I wouldn't call them."

When asked whether any recourse would be taken against the fire department, Wanda could only say, "If I were a millionaire I'd sue them, but being on welfare, that's my only income. I wouldn't want something to happen to that."□

Medi-Cal Trickbag

Hersell, Ada and Tammy Roland: "Many, many people would die if they didn't have Medi-Cal. But in order to get it, they must reduce themselves to almost absolute poverty, making them even more dependent than when they started."

(Stockton, Ca.) Amidst reports of a severe shortage of doctors and general unavailability of medical care to poor, minority and farm worker families in California's San Joaquin Valley, a Stockton family tells a story of the state's action to deny them Medi-Cal benefits because they have a small savings account.

Ada and Hersell Roland have lived in the Stockton area most of their adult lives. That they are both disabled and Mrs. Roland can only work part-time now has forced them to turn to the state for help in the last few years. The help they have needed the most has been the Medi-Cal program as Mrs. Roland has had a number of operations to arrest the growth of cancer. But when the county welfare department determined that the Roland's had a small savings account, they informed the family that the account would have to be used up before they could continue to be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits.

Mrs. Roland explained the situation to KEEP STRONG in a recent interview. "This was money I had been saving for over thirty years so my children, so my daughter Tammy could have the choice of going to college if she wanted. If we don't give up our savings, then with all the hospital bills we have coming, we'll lose it anyway."

Hersell Roland was disabled in an accident near the end of his tour of duty in the U.S. army during World War II. Initially paralyzed from the waist down, Mr. Roland eventually regained the use of his legs but was instructed never to lift more than ten pounds at one time.

Mrs. Roland has waged a courageous fifteen year fight against cancer. She has undergone a hysterectomy as well as having one lung, four inches of her intestines and one quarter inch of her esophagus removed. The endless surgery, however, has not slowed her down. She continues to take care of her house and family and care for her disabled husband. She also works thirty hours a week as a housekeeper through a state program for which she receives $2.50 an hour.

Receiving only a small veterans pension, Mr. Roland began taking part-time jobs to support his family and hoping to rebuild his strength. By 1957 he was strong enough to go back to work full time in a cannery in Stockton where he worked for the next twelve years. A serious accident in 1969 disabled him again, and he was forced to turn back to the VA for assistance six years ago.

Always active in community affairs, Mrs. Roland is now working on setting up a community hypertension testing program with the Intercommunal Survival Committee. She learned how to take blood pressure because she tests her husband almost daily. On the advice of her doctor, Mrs. Roland applied for social security disability over two years ago. She has not yet received a response from the Social Security Administration. Asked what the family intended to do about the loss of Medi-Cal benefits, Mrs. Roland answered, "We'll have to use up the money to buy off this house and do some remodeling. But we won't be able to use it for Tammy's education. We both worked hard all of our lives. All the years my husband worked, he could have sat back and collected veterans benefits. Now we have to give up what little we have left. Why is it we have to make choices like this?"

Sources inside the state's Department of Benefit Payments (welfare department) were quick to admit the destructive nature of the state's policy in this case. "The policy says you can't keep any real money and be eligible for Medi-Cal. We know that the health care is the worst in the state out there. Many, many people would die if they didn't have it. But in order to get it, they must reduce themselves to almost absolute poverty, making them even more dependent than when they started."□

Occupational Health

Brown Lung Compensation Demanded

(Columbia, S.C) The Southern Poverty Law Center recently launched a nationwide campaign to force textile mills to pay compensation to workers afflicted with the deadly "brown lung" disease.

Over 100,000 retired and present cotton mill workers suffer from the disease which is caused by the contamination of the lungs by cotton dust. The respiratory disease, known medically as byssinosis, seriously impairs lung capacity and leads to coughing and shortness of breath. A large percentage of workers suffer irreversible lung damage.

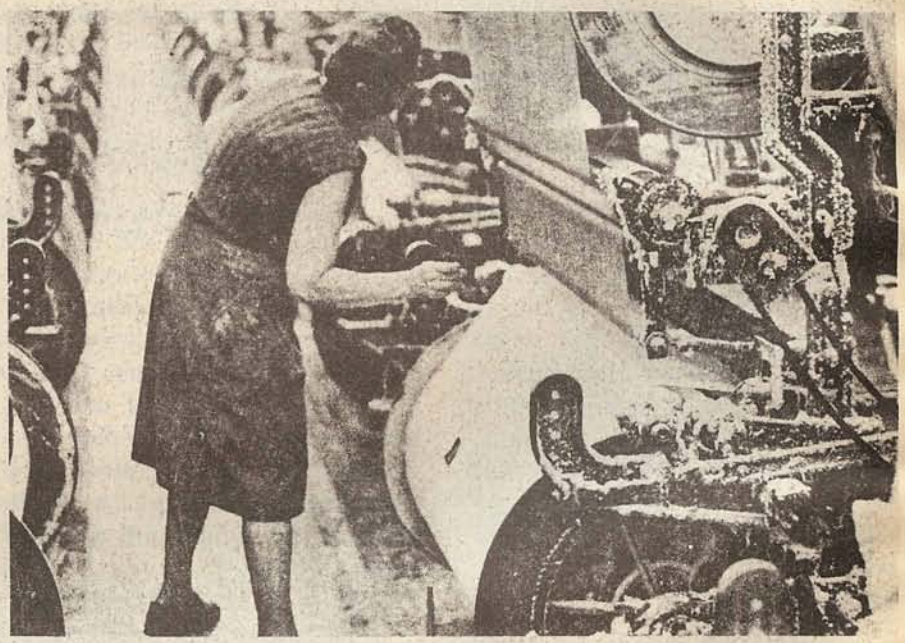
One victim of the disease, Flossie Strickland of Columbia, South Carolina, comments, "I just started to smother after I had been working in the spinning room for a few years." "It was all that cotton dust flying around," she went on. "I quit work five years early—no pension, no medical compensation, not even one of those sheets we were making."

Beatrice Norton of Saxon, South Carolina started working in Arcadia's Mayfair Mills at the age of 14. After 32 years of "eating dust," "brown lung" has destroyed half of her lungs' breathing capacity. When she was forced to quit in 1968 at the age of 50, she was given $2,500 in profit sharing or $78 for each year that she worked.

Mrs. Norton is unable to perform any physical activities and lives alone in a small cottage on a meager social security pension. She attributes the early deaths of her mother, stepfather, and husband, all mill workers, to "brown lung" disease.

Due to pressure from labor and medical lobbies, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed a strict limit on the amount of cotton dust that 200,000 workers who are exposed to it can breathe. The textile industry is resisting these new standards claiming that they would require the installation of more than $2.5 billion worth of dust-catching equipment.

The new federal standards would limit the amount of cotton dust a worker could breathe during an eight-hour shift to 200 micrograms per cubic meter of air. This is one-fifth of the amount allowed by a 1971 federal standard—one that was never really enforced.



Over 100,000 former and present cotton mill workers suffer from brown lung disease. A nationwide campaign is underway so the disease's victims can get compensation.

Another mill worker, 52-year-old Woody Clark, started working in the mills at the age of nine. Two years ago he was told he could never work again. "Brown lung" disease had destroyed all but 26 per cent of his breathing capacity.

With no jobs, no pension and no compensation for the 11 different kinds of medication he must take daily, Clark has nothing to show for 41 years of hard work.

The SPLC believes that the mills will never install the necessary air filtration systems to lower dust levels until they are forced to pay compensation.□

Reprinted from "The Black Panther"

Rank'n File

Kentucky Miners Attacked By Police—79 Arrested, 11 Jailed

(Stearns, Ky.) A nationwide campaign to gain support for the 16-month-old strike of Stearns, Kentucky miners has been launched this month. The over 150 miners who have been seeking a United Mine Workers contract with Stearns Coal Co., a subsidiary of Blue Diamond Coal Co., headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., are seeking strike support funds.

Throughout the duration of the strike, the coal company has brought scab workers into the mines, usually using the cover of local court orders. On October 17, 1977, a full scale campaign by the coal company to bring scabs in erupted into a violent confrontation between strikers and police. Since October 17, 21 scabs have been escorted by Kentucky state police to and from their homes into the coalfields.

Seventy-nine arrests resulted from the October 17 attack against the striking miners by eighty riot-equipped police, who waded into two lines of pickets outside the Justus coal mine near Stearns. Sixty-eight of those arrested were released the following morning.

Three days later, Judge J.B. Johnston, refusing to listen to legal arguments by the striking miners or their own statement of facts regarding the incident, charged all 79 miners with violating a previous restraining order. He chose 11 of the most active miners and charged them with contempt of court. These 11 each received a six month jail sentence.

Seven of the striking miners sentenced to six months are currently in jail. The other four were so severely beaten during their arrests, they were temporarily released on doctor's orders.

The remaining 68 miners were released on $1000 bonds. They were each given a year's probation and were told by the judge that if they broke any law at all they would serve a year in jail.

Meanwhile, seven of the 11 charged with contempt are currently in jail. The other four have been temporarily released on a doctor's orders after a brief court battle. The four were severely beaten during the arrests on October 17. Their doctor successfully insisted before the court that they could not be jailed in their present condition.

Vanover Mahan, president of the UMWA local, who had a bloody head and a crushed elbow after the fight, is one of those out on doctor's release.

On December 28, Mr. Mahan must return to his doctor for re-evaluation. Then it will be determined when he must go back to jail.□

Community Programs

Community Co-op Wins Jobs And Celebrates

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) November was a very exciting month in Greenpoint. As the weather was getting colder, the people's hearts were getting warmer to new ideas of change. On November 1, Hollywood came rolling out to Milton Street just off Manhattan Avenue. Columbia Pictures was filming part of a special movie for TV's "Police Story" which will be aired in late April. "The Killer Cop" is the name of it. It stars Nathan George, Lou Gosset, Joe Don Baker and Patrick O'Neal.

Community residents stopped by to see what was happening and to get autographs. Although residents enjoyed the festive air on Milton Street, there was also concern. One woman, a twelve year resident of Milton Street said, "I don't mind them working here, but they should show a little more respect. They yelled at me for looking out my window while they were filming, and they leave all the trash on the sidewalk and street."

The second day, a small meeting took place between members of the newly-opened Greenpoint People's Community Food Co-op, residents of Mlton Street and the Intercommunal Survival Committee. It was decided that the best way for Columbia Pictures to help Greenpoint, since Greenpoint was serving Hollywood as a location, was to provide jobs to Greenpoint residents.

"At first, Columbia Pictures thought we were joking and didn't take us seriously. But soon the message was clear. Lee Rafner, production manager for Columbia Pictures, offered three jobs. Many looked at this as an insult. The next day the message was even clearer: no jobs, no film. Then we got an offer for sixty jobs for a three-day period. The jobs included extras for the film, security and maintenance," said Richard Cohen, ISC coordinator.

On Thursday, a delicious lunch paid for by Columbia Pictures was held at the Greenpoint People's Community Service Center. "It was more like a victory celebration," said one woman. After lunch, Richard Cohen announced a community drive to fill 300 Thanksgiving gift bags for seniors in Greenpoint.

On November 5 and 6, the Greenpoint People's Community Service Center sponsored its fall rummage sale to raise money to support the various survival programs. Community volun-

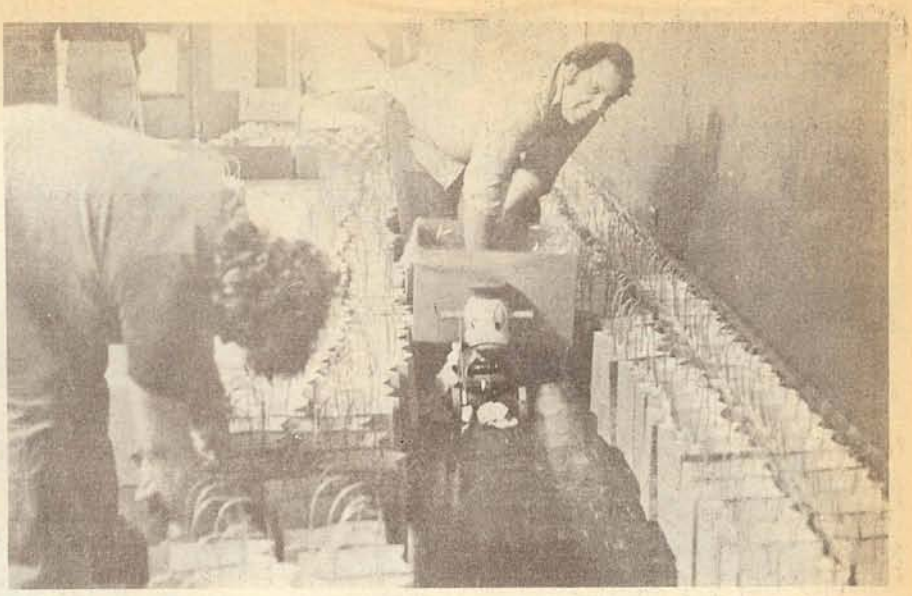
Scene from Columbia Picture's "Police Story." Greenpoint, Brooklyn residents won 60 jobs in production of the film

teers had worked throughout the night before to prepare for the festival. Clothing, kitchenware, nick-nacks and delicious cakes, cookies and pies baked by the co-op members were sold very quickly that day.

As Thanksgiving rolled closer, the Service Center had the privilege to work on a city-wide Thanksgiving program. Again, 35 community volunteers worked almost two days straight to fill 2,000 gift packs consisting of figs, nuts, apples, tangerines, raisins, oranges, pears, bananas, cookies and date rolls.

These packages were distributed to young people incarcerated in juvenile homes and to senior citizen centers. Smiles spread all over Greenpoint as the gift packs were delivered throughout the night of November 24. The theme of the program was a "Thank you to the senior citizens for passing their knowledge to their children and their children's children."

No sooner had the Thanksgiving Program ended when the Hard Times Christmas Survival Program began. Richard Cohen announced at the community dinner held December 4 at the Greenpoint People's Community Service Center that through the cooperation of the community, 500 bags of groceries, and toys for 2,000 children would be distributed. At the community dinner a delicious homecooked dinner was served while people relaxed to music provided by Bev Grant, Jerry Mitnik and Gene Hicks.□



Community volunteers worked almost two days straight to fill 2,000 Thanksgiving gift packs.

"Thank you to the senior citizens for passing their knowledge on to their children and their children's children."

Neighbors Working Together For Survival

(Chicago, Ill.) The Uptown Tenants Union Food Co-op, responding to an increasing demand and use by the community has opened a branch co-op in the Kenmore Street neighborhood. The residents of the neighborhood have been able to purchase at a great savings a variety of vegetables, fruits and other foods, every Friday at the co-op's facility at 4130 N. Kenmore.

Kenmore residents were involved in the Wilson Avenue Co-op at the Uptown People's Community Service Center. With the help of co-op community workers, they proceeded to organize their own neighbors to open a branch. An apartment was donated and a committee set up of people interested in working on the program. Responsibilities were taken for food quality, marketing, distribution of food order blanks, bookkeeping and delivery to senior citizens.

In the six weeks the co-op has functioned, the number of members has gone from 18 to 40, with many participants purchasing large quantities of fruits and vegetables for canning, which also helps cut the increasing cost of food.

The co-op is completely managed and operated by community residents, with people from 13 to 50 years old all working

The Kenmore Street Co-op: Managed and operated by community residents, with people from 13 to 50 years old, all working together to bring needed service to their community.

together to bring to their community a service which they all feel is needed.

One mother stated that, "Before the co-op started up, and we all struggled to make it work, I always had to worry about how I was going to feed my children and family at the end of the month. Now, as long as we continue to have the co-op branch in our community, not only my family, but others can at least provide decent meals for their families all month long."

The group on Kenmore who organized the co-op have seen in practice the positive results of people working together to solve their survival problems. At the steering committee meetings in the area, subjects such as safety and recreation for the large numbers of children on the street have been discussed. As the continuing problem of abandoned buildings takes its toll on our community, research is being done to investigate how the federal and city government can be forced to provide the resources for the rehabilitation of some of these building so the process of destruction, abandonment and arson will stop. Other suggestions, from installing safety bumps across the streets to the planning and development of the Buena Street playlot to make it a safe place for the children—are being investigated.

The mothers in the building at 4130 N. Kenmore, realizing the importance of neighborly cooperation and seeing it work with the Kenmore Co-op branch, organized themselves to cook a Thanksgiving dinner for the senior citizens in the building to insure that the seniors' holiday wouldn't be as lonely as previous ones. In addition, people in the building with plumbing, electrical and general maintenance skills are on call 24 hours a day to assist their neighbors when an emergency arises. All of these actions speak to a greater lesson that every neighborhood can learn: "that we, the people, have in our own hands, the collective skills and knowledge to see to it that we have a decent life if we only organize ourselves and truly begin to know our neighbors."□

Fighting City Hall

Southside Victory Dinner In Milwaukee

(Milwaukee, Wis.) Over 300 people braved a driving blizzard to attend the Victory Celebration/Thanksgiving Dinner held at Pulaski Hall on Milwaukee's Southside. The dinner was held to celebrate the October 6 election victory of the Unity Slate, which won a majority of 26 seats on the 32-seat Residents Council.

The dinner was more like a gathering of old friends and family as people from all over the Southside joined together and enjoyed a delicious dinner of roast pork, rice and salad,

Bonificio Santiago: "Through the support of the community, the Residents Council has shown that it can work together and get things done."

The victorious candidate were introduced by the Residents Council Chairperson, Isabelle Reyes.

prepared Spanish style and topped off by a Victory cake. The event was highlighted by the raffling of two ten dollar cash prizes, a ten dollar gift certificate from the Southside People's Food Co-op and two free auto tune-ups from the Automotive Repair and Training Center (ARTC).

After everyone had eaten, a more serious tone was reached as the victorious candidates were introduced by the Residents Council Chairperson, Isabelle Reyes. After she introduced the Council, Bonificio Santiago, a senior member of the Council, rose and explained that through the support of the community the Residents Council has shown that it can work together and get things done.

As the event closed and people began to trudge home in the snow, one member of the Concerned Citizens Dinner Committee who lingered to the end said, "If 300 people came out on a day like this to show their concern for the community, there's no telling what we can do."□

Urban Renewal Project Stopped

(Chicago, Ill) Over the last six months, hundreds of community residents mounted a successful campaign to stop the Chicago-Oakley Urban Renewal Project. The city had declared two blocks in this northwest side neighborhood to be "slum and blighted." The intention was to use Community Development Act funds to tear down businesses and the homes of more than 50 families to pave the way for special projects for the exclusive us of the Ukranian Church and its members.

The community was enraged because they had not been informed by the city of the urban renewal project. Nor had they been consulted. And finally, they did not agree that this was a "slum and blighted" area. They were not going to allow their homes and businesses to be destroyed.

Mayor Bilandic claimed that he had talked with area residents and that they "liked the plan." Area resident Vera Petschenko said, "I will fight. This is no slum."

Following a formal complaint by the Pros Organization, HUD officials announced a hold on federal funds for the Chicago-Oakley project until it completed a thorough investigation on how the city spent its community development money. Pros claimed that the more than $80 million in CD funds the city received had been misspent and that there had been a notable lack of citizen participation in the administration of the program.

After their investigation, HUD officials announced at the end of September that they were freezing the funds for the project They gave the city 60 days to submit additional evidence in support of its plan. The 60 days were up November 28, and the city delivered a letter to HUD withdrawing the Chicago-Oakley project.

"The residents were very happy. It was a united effort of the little people believing in their homes and families," said Ray Medina, a Chicago-Oakley community activist. "It was a victory for community organiztion," he said. "One person alone cannot fight city hall. But we are not relaxed for one minute—not until Bilandic rescinds the "slum-blighted' stigma put on the Chicago-Oakley area. Until then, who knows that it won't be brought up again."□

December 4, 1977 Statement By ISC National Coordinator Slim Coleman

IN MEMORY OF FRED HAMPTON

On December 4, 1969, two hours before dawn, an elite force of Chicago police led a well-armed assault on the apartment of Fred Hampton, Illinois Chairman of the Black Panther Party. Subsequent release of FBI files shows that the FBI planned and directed the raid with the help of paid FBI informer William O'Neal. Whether by O'Neal himself or some other agent, Hampton was drugged shortly before he went to sleep for the evening. He never woke up during the opening few minutes of the 99 gunshot raid, and was finally shot four times at close range as he lay asleep.

On December 4, 1977, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the ISC to pledge that we will never allow Fred's memory to go unremembered as long as we ourselves as an organization continue.

Fred Hampton means many things to many people, because he had an enormous impact on the city of Chicago, both his life and his death. Some have tried to use his life and his memory to their own ends. We do not intend to do this.

For us Fred meant something very special, because it was Fred's vision and organizational ability that made the working coalition between poor and working Whites and the Black Panther Party a possibility and a reality. For those who do not understand this relationship, I am only sorry that Fred is not here to explain it.

Fred Hampton: "It was Fred's vision and organizational ability that made the working coalition between poor and working White and the Black Panther Party a possibility and a reality."

Fred spent long hours, even days, in discussions with White organizations from the oppressed community, because he believed that unity between Black people and White people would come most truly and most honestly among the most oppressed of each race. "We got common problems and common conditions, Slim. We face genocide and you don't, and that's different. But once they get genocide in full swing, they won't be discriminating so much. If you're poor, they're going to knock you down."

Slim Coleman, ISC national Coordinator: "Fred believed in the people, in all oppressed people, but he believed most of all that the people must have a people's organization, a people's vanguard."

More than anything, we learned from Fred to believe in practice. "Don't listen to somebody with a lot of theory and no practice. You can have as many degrees as a thermometer and still can't walk across the street and chew gum at the same time." If there was a problem in the community, the thing to do was to solve it.

In the past ten years I have been to a lot of meetings where city officials and poverty pimps discuss starting various community programs. Most of these did not ever bear fruit, although the planner got paid. But when people called into the Black Panther office in 1968 during the winter cold spell and said they had no heat, there was very little discussion. Party members were sent all over the city to get electric heaters. Lawyers were recruited. Slumlords were visited at home. For the next week over fifty people a day called the Party headquarters saying their heat had been turned off, and attention was given to every one of them. They got electric heaters, and their landlord got a visit from which they got the desired result. While Fred lived, programs like this were born every day.

"Why can't you run these types of survival programs in your community? Slim, I know the people need it. What about the Breakfast for Children Program?" He was a hard man to argue with, because he was so often right.

Following the teachings of Huey P. Newton, who Fred called "the main man," Fred believed that people learn through observation and participation. Therefore he believed that the survival programs should provide examples showing that the community could organize itself for survival, and that when the community saw these examples work, they would learn to unify through observing and participating in the programs.

Fred believed in the people, in all oppressed people, but he believed most of all that the people must have a people's organization, a people's vanguard. He died proving and providing an example that such an organization must and could exist.

I probably heard him speak a hundred times during the years 1968 and 1969. There were hundreds of hours of discussion, often from 2 to 5 in the morning. I watched him do many things. But I can not forget that he knew that he probably would die very soon, but did not stop.

Two nights before he died, I dropped him off at his house about 2 a.m. We had discussed how to handle some meetings that were coming up, and he was explaining that he knew the police were going to hit in the next few days. He could have left, or gotten into a safer situation. No one would have blamed him because he was already recognized as a valuable leader. He believed, however, that you had to do what you talked about, or nobody would understand.□

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY PROGRAM

MARCH 29, 1972 PLATFORM

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM. WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES.

We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions which exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE.

We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all of its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES.

We believe that this racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency which will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of overy fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS.

We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then the housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people in our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY.

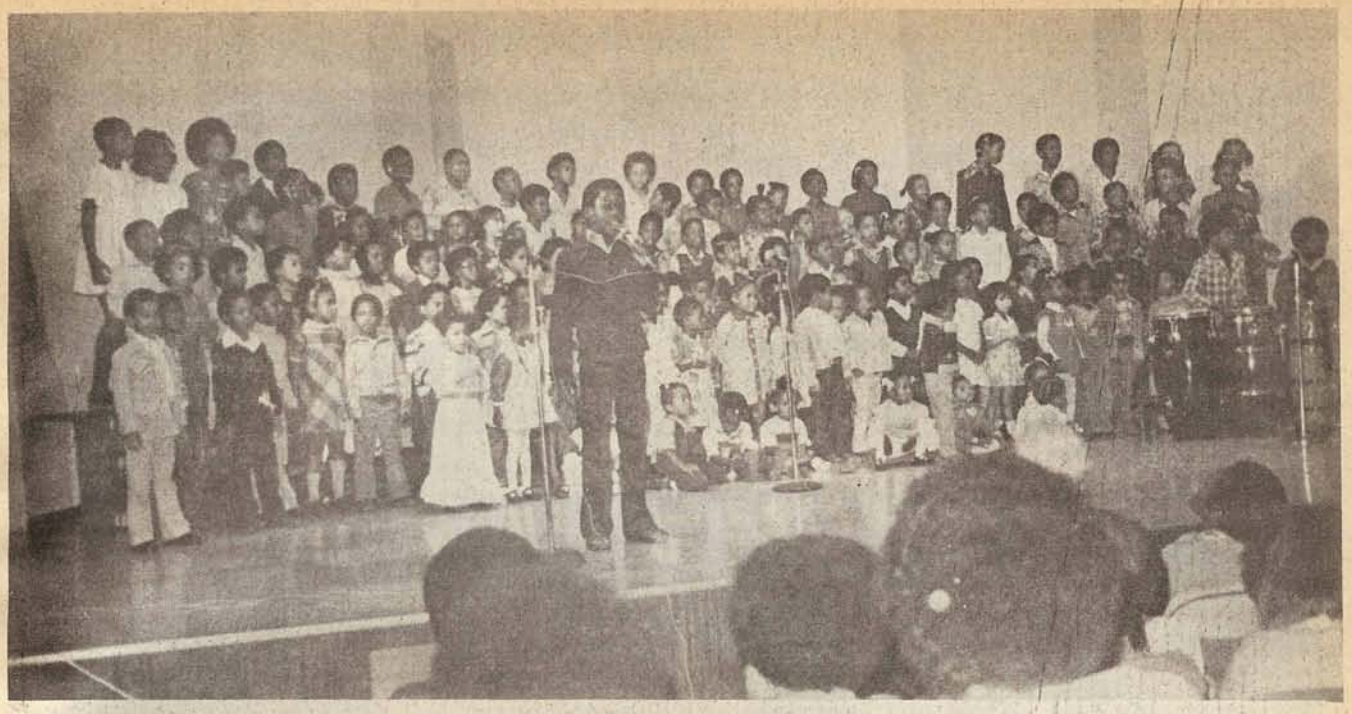
We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities which will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but which will also develop preventative medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to



Students at the Oakland Community School perform at a community event.

defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION.

We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U.S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U.S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY.

We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U.S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U.S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions which are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons are brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY.

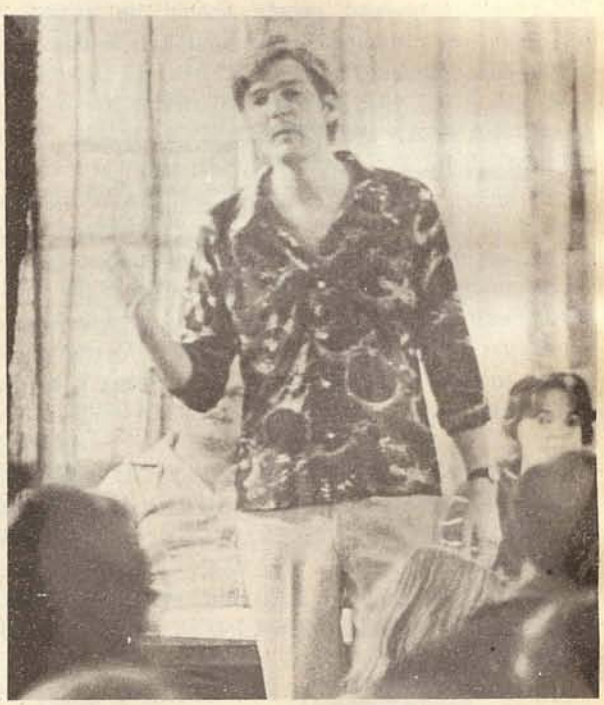
When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

FOCUS: UPTOWN FIGHTS URBAN RENEWAL

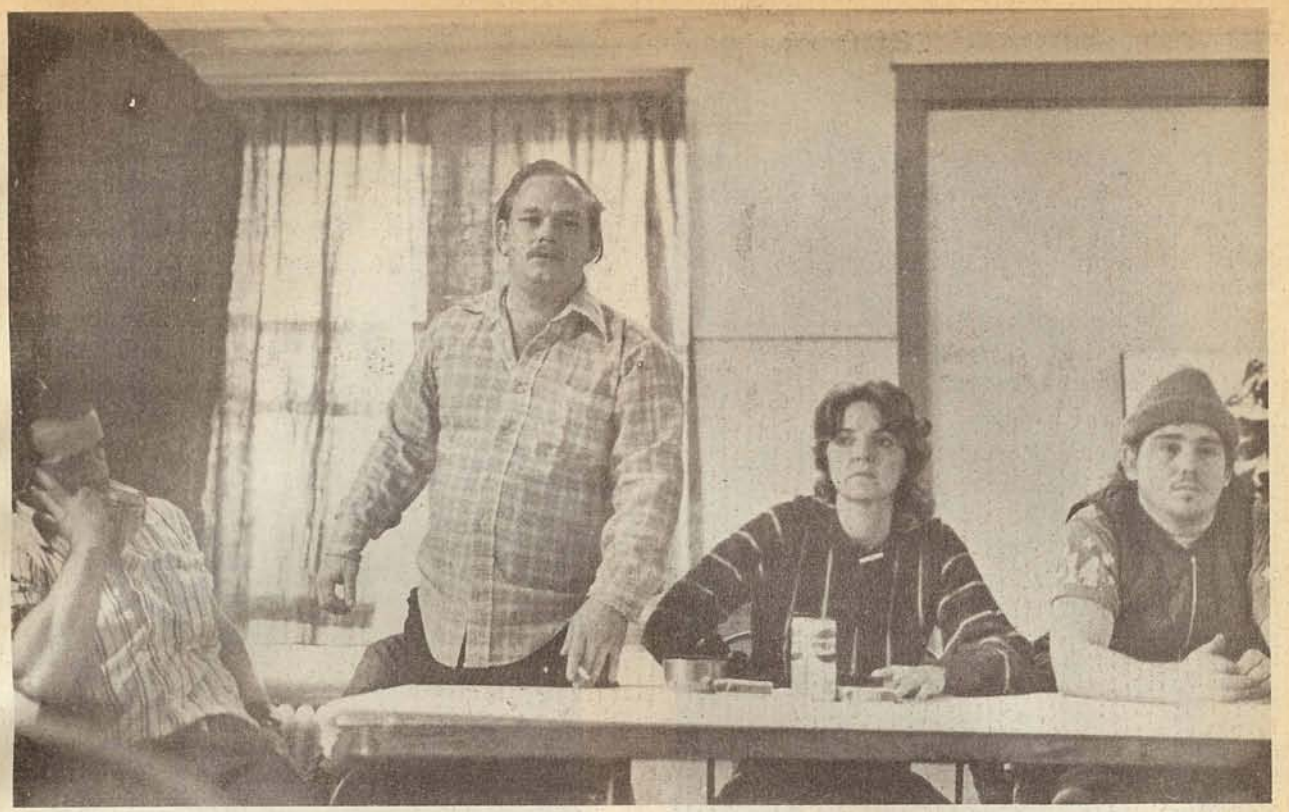
As part of the growing citywide movement to resist the city's masterplan, on Sunday, December 4 over 150 representatives of the developing block clubs in the area that has come to be called the "Heart of the Uptown Community," gathered at Fred Hampton Memorial Hall. (This area includes the 4400 and 4500 blocks of Clifton, Racine, Magnolia and Malden, in addition to the 4100 to 4300 blocks of Kenmore Street.) Citing the continued deterioration and destruction of this neighborhood, the people at the meeting vowed to build a block organization which could take on the city to try and reverse this pattern of deterioration. It was pointed out that although the area has recently been declared an urban renewal area, it has no representative body which can give the government a true picture of what is going on or what is necessary to improve the present situation.

Slim Coleman, coordinator of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, chaired the meeting. He pointed out that the city and other developers were making their last push to drive the poor people out of Uptown. He went on to say that certain groups and paid organizers were attempting to negotiate with the city and once more sell the community down the river. "The only way we can now save our neighborhood is if we build our own truly representative organization which can speak to the needs that we all know we have."



Slim Coleman, national coordinator of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, points out the need to build a people's organization to fight the city's masterplan.

Mike Johnson, one of the organizers of the meeting, gave numerous reasons why it was necessary to now stop the city from pushing even one more family out of this neighborhood: "It's a constant struggle just to stay alive. The way things are now,



Mike Johnson, a resident of Uptown. "It's a constant struggle just to stay alive. The people have to get themselves together."

we know that we do not live in decent housing as it is, but where else can we go? It costs money to move. Where are we going to be able to pay rent? All of the housing in other neighborhoods is even more expensive than in this one. The people have got to get themselves together. We have got to build an organization which can save our homes. If we don't, we all know what is going to happen."

The Uptown community has a long history of resistance to the city's plans and developments. Harry S. Truman College now stands in the heart of Uptown. It replaced about 1200 units of low-income housing. The 4500 blocks of Racine and Clifton were supposed to be the last land taken in this community by the college. Now they are attempting to acquire the 4400 block of Clifton. When William Thompson leveled all of Montrose Avenue to build a middle income high rise this was supposed to be the last new development in the area. Urban Renewal and Model Cities were going to use their funds to "improve" the rest of the Uptown community. The community had been promised by all of their representatives that nothing would be done in the community without first consulting the people who live in that community. Now it had been learned that the area north of Montrose is an urban renewal area. In the current plan, all of the 4600 block of Magnolia is planned for a park.

The city has millions of dollars in funds from HUD for rehabilitation and relocation, with most of these monies being administered through the Department of Urban Renewal. It was pointed out at the meeting that, "All of these plans are going ahead, and we have absolutely no representation anywhere. There is no urban renewal community council; we have no alderman in city council, since he resigned to join HEW; we have no one to represent us. In addition, all of the people who claim to represent us, who are willing to negotiate for us, are not from our community, but come from the middle class area that claims to represent Uptown."

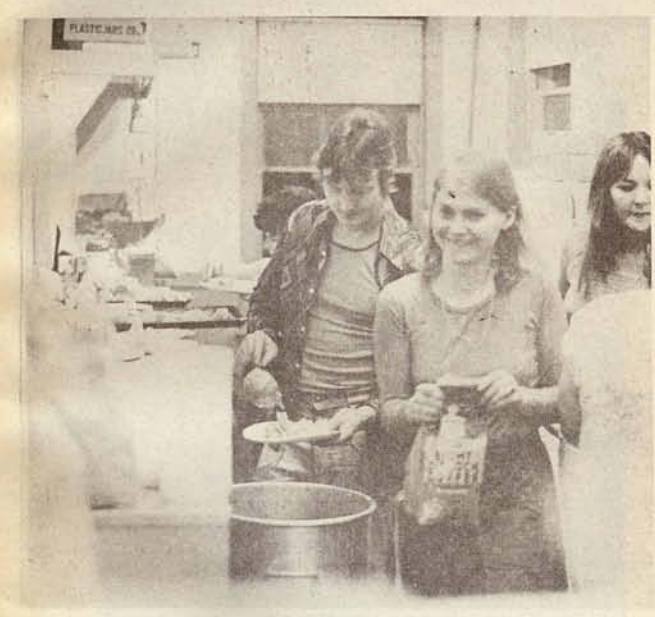
Marion Stamps of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization spoke about how successful community organizing can stop urban renewal.

James Chapman, legal counsel for the Uptown People's Community Service Center, gave examples of Uptown's long history of resistance.

Marion Stamps, from the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization, on the near northside, and a member of the city-wide Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan, spoke of successful actions that have been taken in her community against urban renewal, mostly accomplished through the efforts of people who live in that area. "It is possible to stop urban renewal if we do our homework correctly and demand the things that we know we have a right to. We hopefully have learned something in the last ten years and will be able to win something real, something that will improve our everyday conditions."

Attorney James Chapman, general counsel of the Uptown People's Community Service Center, spoke of the community's long history of resistance. "The people of this community have been fighting the developers for a long time and have used many different tactics. We have filed lawsuits, like in the Thompson case, and stopped developments; we have worked with small landlords; and we have been involved in rent strikes and the like to force landlords to repair their buildings. One thing that can be learned from everything we've done is that it was the presence and struggle of so many people from the community who must take the credit for the victories that we have won. We do need to become more organized if we are going to have any continued success."

The coalition decided that after the meeting, each block would have their own meeting and elect a chairperson of their particular block club. These chairpeople would then sit on an area steering



The meeting broke down into workshops where people exchanged ideas on neighborhood improvements. Dinner and more discussion followed.

committee and plant the overall struggle. "Our steering committee will represent directly each block and then will be in a position to begin to demand the things that we need, to improve our own lives."

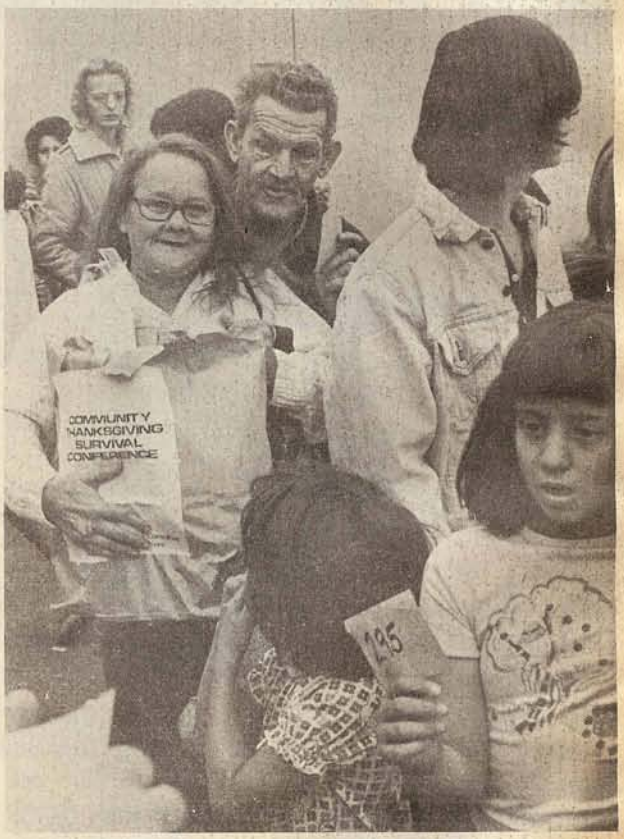
The meeting then broke down into workshops of people from each block. At the workshops, ideas were exchanged about particular things that could be done on each block. Things discussed included the development of a community skills pool so that people could immediately begin to fix up buildings in the neighborhood; and actions that could be taken to clean up the neighborhood since the city has suspended all street cleaning services to the area. All, however, agreed that the most important step is to build an organization which could take on the city and the Department of Urban Renewal directly. Afterwards, a delicious dinner was served to all present in order to raise money for the group's ongoing efforts. Everyone left the meeting enthusiastic and sure that things were going to happen in Uptown.□

Over 500 People Participate In Stockton's First Community Survival Conference

SELF-RESPECT AND SURVIVAL

For the seventh time in as many days, a bulky young man with blondish hair walks through the glass doors of the state employment office in Stockton. Behind the counters, he can see rows and rows of men and women sitting at desks, looking like they are working. The same man who has greeted him each previous time smiles slightly and shakes his head from side to side. After a few seconds he says, "Sorry pal. We still don't have anything." The young man stands up to the counter and asks, "I thought this was the employment office?" The clerk leans over and half whispers, "Look here. We ain't sent nobody out of here in weeks." A slight smile breaks over the younger man's face he answers, "Say man, why don't you give me a job here." The younger man turns and walks out.

The young woman holds her three-year-old son on her lap. She'd rather not but all the other seats are taken. Two and a half hours is a lot longer with 40 pounds on your lap and climbing all over you. Finally, a woman with a clipboard and a pen comes over. She asks, "Have you ever been here before?" The young mother answers, "Yes, I was here last week, and my husband was here with Chuckie three weeks ago." The woman with the clipboard stands up straight as the expression on her face becomes very serious. "Oh, now I remember you. You're in here all the time.



"They have taken everything from us but our self-respect. But we can put our self-respect to work and organize for our survival."

What is it this time?"

The younger woman begins to get a little nervous. "My son here fell and bumped his head yesterday. And today he said he felt a little dizzy." The older woman is not hiding her anger any longer. She raises her voice so it can be heard all the way down the hall.

"Don't you know that this is not a clinic? This is a hospital emergency room. We've got a lot of sick people here to take care of. Last week your son had a cold. Three weeks ago he had stomach cramps. You can't just keep coming here. Why do you always come here?" The younger woman is clearly intimidated, but she manages to say, "I don't have anywhere else to take him when he gets sick."

It is all she can do to keep from crying. 59 years old and sitting in the welfare office, all the time thinking, "I never thought it would come to this. I should get up and leave, but I'll just have to come back in a few months when my money runs out." A young boy with long hair calls her name and motions her to follow him. In the little cubby hole office he stares at the forms on his desk as he asks, "What can I do for you?" She takes a few minutes to answer. "My husband passed away some months ago. I'm not old enough to collect social security. We were living on our savings. There isn't much left, and I think I'm going to need some help from your agency, sir.

"My husband and I worked in the same truck stop for 25 years—he was the cook and I was a waitress—until he got too sick. Then I had to quit work to take care of him." The young intake worker is still staring at the forms when he says, "Well, you know you've got to use up your savings before you can come to us. When all that's gone, you come back. It takes a few weeks but the county will send your landlord a rent voucher for about $62 a month, and you come once a month to pick up a food voucher for $30 that you can take to a store near you. No cash, just vouchers as long as you promise to try to pay it back. Any property you have will go to the county after you die if you don't pay the money back before then. You just come back when all your money is spent, and we'll fix you up."

Two groups of young men are standing around Franklin High School. One group is

The first Stockton Community Survival Conference featured free groceries, blood pressure testing and speakers from several active community organizations.

"The guns are aimed at non-White people, because they have waited the longest. As far as the city is concerned, the poor Whites are no different than anybody else waiting in line."

White, the other is Latino. Insults bounce back and forth, like a ping pong game with three balls. Two or three from each of the groups move closer towards each other. A big buck comes out of one of the pockets. A tile knife comes out on the other side. The insults grow louder, and the men are only a few feet apart. Out of nowhere the coach pops up. "What's going on here? You boys are fighting again. Every time I turn around you're either fighting or about to be fighting. You're supposed to be in school. You're supposed to learn how to get along in school. Why, you're out here more than you're in class. Matter of fact, I never see some of you in class. Maybe if you spent more time trying to get an education, you wouldn't be so worried about fighting with each other."

A tall White boy steps in front of his partners. He smiles when he says, "Say coach. I'm 17 years old. I've been in school for 11 years. The only thing I do in there is sleep. You know I can't read the label on a bottle of beer. At least out here I ain't sleeping. At least out here I'm doing something. That's better than nothing, isn't it."

Stockton, California is a city with a debt. Its creditors are not businessmen in three piece suits but poor and working families. Like a crooked gambler in a grade C western, it has chosen not to pay its debt but to kill the creditors before they can collect.

The debt grew out of a long-standing relationship. The people did the work. They harvested the food in the fields and processed it in the canneries. They kept the trucks on the road and the trains running. They lifted the lumber and mixed the fertilizers and the pesticides. They guarded the warehouses from midnight 'til dawn for two dollars an hour. The growers and their friends grew rich and ran to the banks. The banks grew fat and loaned money to developers and one day Stockton became "Someplace Special."

Much as they wanted to, the growers, bankers, developers and city officials couldn't forget the debt. The neighborhoods (the ones without the sidewalks) are the note. And the debtors grew nervous because they knew that the people had waited patiently and were growing angrier each day. So the city turned its six guns on its people. The city, working closely with the county, with money from the state and federal government, redirected the institutions which the people depend upon for their survival and turned them towards the destruction of the people.

Many people can remember the time when having white skin was enough to keep you out of the line of fire. You could always find work or a place to live because you weren't Black or you spoke English. There was a time when the older children worked so the younger ones could finish school, because a high school diploma was a ticket to a clean job and a few more dollars every week. But times have changed.

Still, the guns are aimed at non-White people, because they have waited the longest and are first in line to collect what is owed to them. The difference now is that a lot of work is gone. Many of the Whites who were needed ten years ago aren't needed any more. As far as the city is concerned, the poor Whites are no

The people of Stockton are the people who fought against the Gallo Brothers and their Teamster goons in the fields of California, the Sheriff Bull Connor's in the counties of Mississippi, and held the bank agents off their land at gunpoint in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

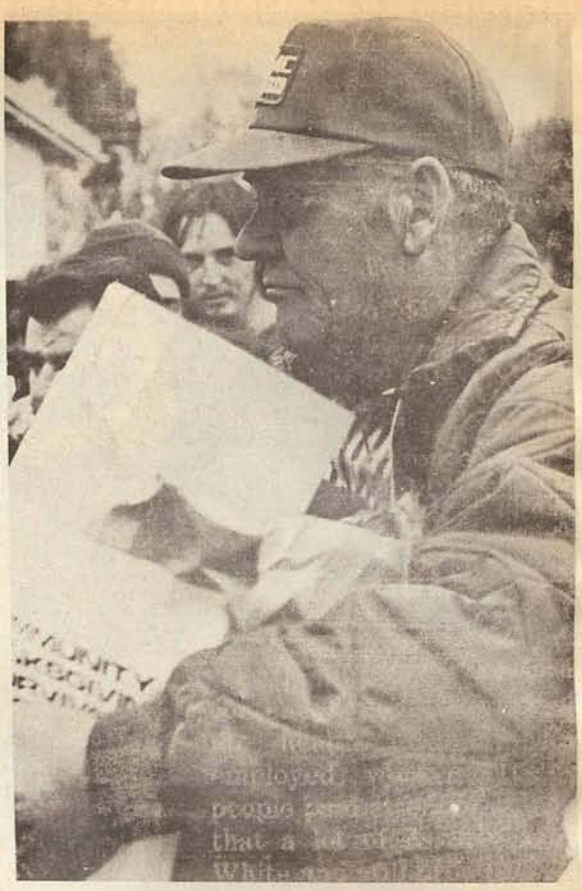
different than anybody else who is waiting in line to get paid back. So they wake up every morning in Stockton, and it's just another punch in the mouth.

But there is another side to this seemingly sad story. The creditors will not wait forever. Especially when it has become obvious that Stockton does not intend to pay the people what they have earned. After all, these are the same people who fought the Gallo Bros. and their Teamster goons in the fields of California, the Sheriff Bull Connor's in the counties of Mississippi, and held the bank agents off their land at gunpoint in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

On November 20, over 500 people participated in Stockton's first Community Survival Conference. The Conference theme, "Organize for Survival," ran through the remarks of all of the speakers, but was expressed most clearly by the fact that the event was put together by two small organizations and 50 or so community volunteers.

Indeed, community workers from the Intercommunal Survival Committee and Western Social Services, alongside mothers, husbands, children and uncles, raised the money, got the donations of groceries, went door to door in the neighborhoods spreading the word, transported and packed the groceries, tested the people for high blood pressure, cleaned the conference site from one a.m. to five a.m. the morning before the event, and carried out the program of the Survival Conference itself.

The speakers were neither celebrities nor politicians who might donate a few minutes, but righteous community activists keenly aware of the urgent need to build programs which meet the people's concrete needs while strengthening their



Several of the hundreds of Stockton community residents who received free groceries at the Stockton Community Survival Conference.

ability to enforce their demands.

Pedro Castex, driven from his native country of Chile by a dictatorship bound to suppress the people's human rights by torture and murder, spoke of the constant struggle we face to maintain our rights and our dignity. "No one will give us the things that we need. We must be prepared to fight hard for them."

Lucio Reyes, veteran United Farm Worker picket captain, explained the movement to gain community control over the local office of the California Rural Legal Assistance [see article page 11] and urged, "We all participate in the community but we have to fight for it." Sr. Rose Cirillo described the work of Western Social Services in representing people in their disputes with welfare, social security, the Veterans Administration and other bureaucracies. She also noted the key work of the organization in forcing humane changes in the welfare program at the state and county levels.

Marybelle Compton, from Sierra Vista Homes on Stockton's southside, encouraged everyone to resist welfare department cutoffs, cutbacks and arbitrary denials by learning how to use the fair hearing appeals procedure.

Margaret Velasquez, director of Garden Acres Community Center, discussed the wide range of programs the center operates to meet the basic needs of the people in the community.

The program, which included free blood pressure testing, legal and welfare counseling and concluded with the distribution of 500 bags of groceries, with a chicken in every bag, was emceed by Marc Zalkin of the Intercommunal Survival Committee in California. Zalkin explained the purpose of the survival conference this way, "They have taken everything from us but our self-respect. But we can put our self-respect to work and organize for our survival."□

THE IRISH IN NEW YORK

In this issue, KEEP STRONG *begins a series of interviews with people reflecting on their cultural backgrounds and history. Following is part one of an interview with Grace Meehan, a fourth generation Irish-American and native New Yorker. Grace has lived in the Brooklyn community of Greenpoint most of her life.*

QUESTION: What can you tell us of the history of the Irish in New York?

GRACE MEEHAN: During the 1889's, the Irish soil was very poor. Maybe now, it has improved with technology. I know in the Northern part it's still very poor because no one has given them the advantages of the technology that's at the disposal of so many other parts of the world.

So, the main crop in Ireland was potatoes; that's why you've heard so many of these racist terms where they would call the Irish "Potato Eaters." Now their land, their soil went very bad in the 1880's, and the potato crop failed miserably, and they were starving. Naturally, it was the poor and the middle class who were starving, and so they came to America to escape this.

The way the Irish came here was similar to the way the African slaves came except that they weren't in chains. But, the people that arranged their passage charged them much more than the actual passage cost. They were put in steerage; there were no sanitation facilities of any kind. What they did for food, I really can't imagine. I would assume that they came prepared for the beginning of the journey with baskets of food but naturally without refrigeration, and in those days it took so long to get here, I'm sure the food was either finished or bad, long before the journey's end.

Grace Meehan, resident of Greenpoint, speaks about the life of the immigrant Irish.

If one person became ill, even with a common cold in the steerage, it spread; it became an epidemic. So many died before they ever got here, and no one ever knew about it; they were just thrown overboard. Then when they came here, they were the new arrivals—low man on the totem pole; they were given the most menial jobs.

There were signs posted, "No dogs and Irishmen allowed."

This was in New York. If they were lucky, they usually got jobs they called "hod carriers." In those days, they didn't have cement mixers, so the cement was mixed by hand and put on a thing that was very much like a broomstick with a V-shaped wooden contraption. Naturally, it was very heavy as they carried it on their shoulders. They were not permitted to really rise above this echelon in the construction trade.

As time went on, and we get into the early 1900's, they evolved into city workers. They became policemen and firemen. That's why, to this day, you still find so many Irish who are in the police and fire department. The way you see the evolution of the Black people in the last 30 years, (I wouldn't say more than 30 because during the depression, naturally, there wasn't any work available for anyone), if there was work available, the Blacks didn't get it. So the format you see that the Black people have followed, and that the Puerto Ricans are following now, the Irish went through, even before the Italians. Well, they first became policemen and firemen.

Naturally, as a rule, the women didn't work then. There was also a thing in the early 1900's that if a woman was a widow with children and didn't have an income, or if she were married and her husband was incapacitated for some reason, to work, to do an honest job, was considered the most shameful thing. It was almost looked upon as prostitution; even though the woman was doing a legitimate job, it was just unthinkable that she "was working for a man." So many women had to pretend to be single and not wear their wedding bands. But the older generation (of women) would support their homes by doing laundry, in the home, by hand.

Q: Was that an acceptable thing for a woman to do, in her home, if she was married?

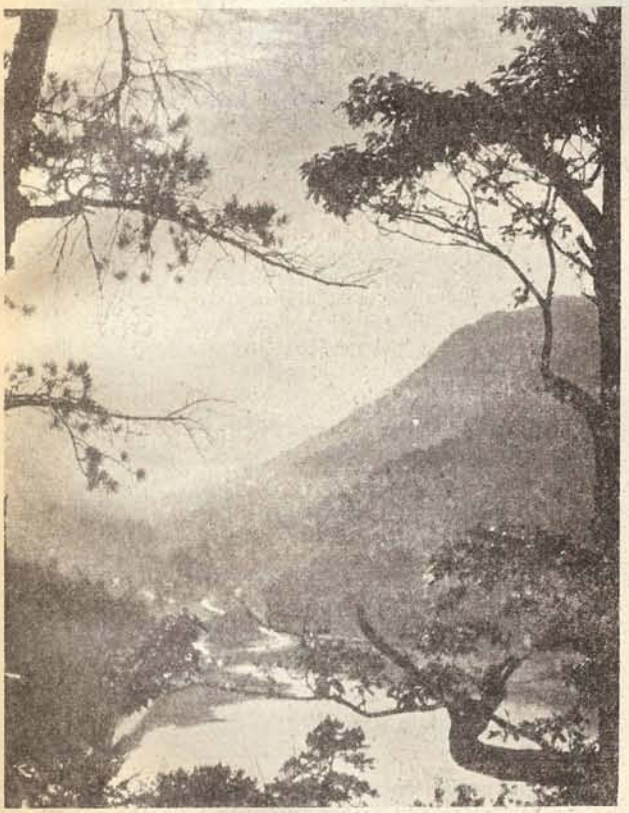
GM: Everyone closed their eyes to it,

because she wasn't going out. The official jobs of the Irish immigrant woman in the 1880's, which were acceptable, were maids in people's homes. That's why today, to find a 3rd or 4th generation Irish woman working in someone's home, is equivalent to finding a wonderful lake in the middle of the Sahara because what they went through, first of all, was so degrading.

It's still going on today, in certain section of our country, where people will purchase maids from places like Colombia and Haiti, pay their passage, and then when they arrive, depending on the person they work for, they may have a nice room and good food and a salary, or they may have sleeping quarters that are horrendous, and leftover food—what the family isn't going to eat again. And they may or may not get paid, because who are they going to complain to; especially if they're "illegal aliens"?

But anyway, the Irish girls came over as servant girls. The Catholic Church tried to bring them over for their safety's sake because a lot of people advertised for Irish servant girls, but they were not legitimate advertisements. When they got them over here, they put them into white slavery.

So once they were aware of that, they would come over through relatives, who would get them jobs. Or they would come over through the Catholic Church—the local parish priest mostly, because the Catholic Church wasn't that organized. At that time, you were a servant girl, or you worked and starved in your home.



For the Irish, the passage to America was a trip of dreams for the good life. The reality often meant starvation, disease and death.

Into the 1900's, the women who were 30 to 40 years old would "take in wash." That's the way they referred to it. The young girls who were coming up would work in department stores. My own mother worked in Hearn's department store, which was on W. 14 Street, for years. My mother started working, as my father did, officially at the age of 12. Because my father was the oldest of a large family of eight, he had to go to work at the

"My father shined shoes from the age of eight."

newspapers from the age of six, and he shined shoes from the age of eight. My mother helped her mother, prior to the age of 12, with this laundry business, by picking up and delivering.

My mother was in charge of cleaning the stockroom, and setting it up (at Hearn's). She had a lot of *chutzpah*, her entire life, and she noticed that through connections another girl got to be made stock girl, which is a higher rung on the ladder. And she fought for that and got that. But before going into the salesgirl line, she went into the garment district, and she started out from the bottom up with what the called a sewing machine operator. She specialized in infants and children's wear, mostly christening outfits, and she worked her way up until she became a designer.

"My mother was in charge of cleaning Hearn's. She had a lot of chutzpah."

My father's father had two jobs—he worked in a bronze foundry, and in the evening, he was in show business; he was a light man. My father's mother wanted my father to go into the jewelry business because she felt it had some prestige; but he didn't like it. He stayed two weeks and he begged his father to bring him into his line. You know, of course, every little boy wants to be like his daddy, but 12 was a little young to get into show business.

"My parents were lucky because some parents were put into sweatshops at eight."

When he got into the bronze foundry, where they made bronze caskets, he was amazed. There were no coffee breaks, there were no hour lunches, no sanitation facilities, no decent wages. It was a sweatshop. But now my parents were lucky because some parents were put into sweatshops at eight. So my father organized, on his own, strictly on a voluntary basis. He did not get paid for this; he organized the bronze line. The union that he was affiliated with was the AF of L (American Federation of Labor). As time went on, both parents got their education at night, and my father became a sculptor in bronze. I'm sure you've seen the

"Most people got hit by the Depression in 1929 or 1930. My parents weren't affected by it until the 1930's."

bronze doors on St. Patrick's Cathedral, That's all hand work. My dad did that.

My parents grew up in the same neighborhood—in Greenwich Village, and the Chelsea area—and they married very young. Originally my great grandparents started out in what they call the first ward in Manhattan—near South Ferry. That was all Irish.

Most people got hit by the depression in 1929, or 1930. My parents were not affected by it. It wasn't until the mid-1930's, because at that time, they were just deciding to go ultra modern, or what was ultra modern to them, in the building market. They wanted their office buildings to be very plain. They didn't want this ornate bronze work, so there was no longer a market for it.

My parents married very young, and were married a long, long time, and weren't blessed with children (right away) although they wanted them, and they raised everybody else's children. But just at the point in life when they had their children, when everybody rushes to buy their home in the suburbs, the business went defunct, and then they were involved in this terrible depression, just like everyone else.

Q: Your father was working in the factory, and your mother was working in the garment district?

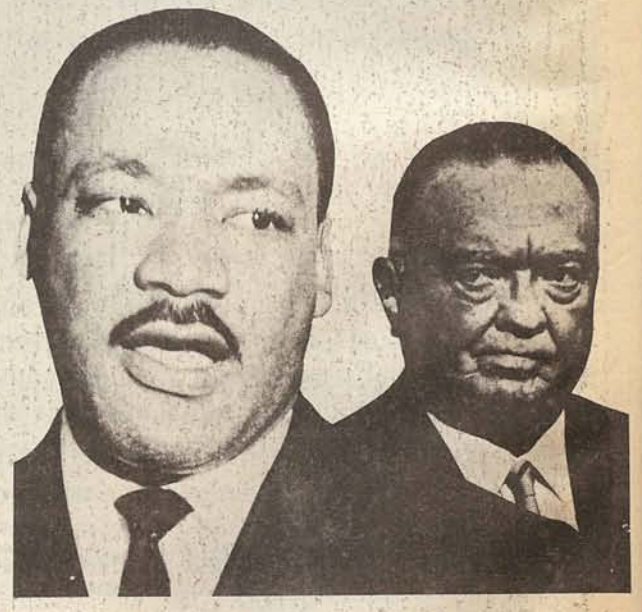
GM: By the time the '30's came, my father had businesses of his own, and my mother had risen to assistant designer. But before then, both of them had worked in the sweatshops.□

F.B.I. COINTELPRO FILES - "RIGHT TO DISSENT" UNDER ATTACK

(Washington, D.C.) The "right to dissent" has long been portrayed as a cherished privilege of the American people guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. Yet, according to close to 53,000 heavily-censored pages of documents released last week by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all too often those who bravely practiced this "right" were harassed by federal police surveillance and/or victimized by other forms of illegal domestic intelligence abuses.

Such is the sordid, 15-year history of the FBI's infamous COINTELPRO (Counter-intelligence Program), whose undercover operations systematically and deliberately violated Constitutional guarantees in a vain "dirty tricks" effort to purge America of valuable political dissenting opinion.

As the 52,648 pages released last week under the Freedom of Information Act indicate, the COINTELPRO program was initiated in 1956 by then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to illegally infiltrate and curtail the activities of the Communist Party in the United States. From that beginning until Hoover, without notice or explanation, defused the program in an April 28, 1971 memo, COINTELPRO grew to become an all-encompassing federal police attack against Black, Chicano, Native American, Puerto Rican and other minority rights activists, the anti-war movement and the progressive left sector of the American people.



Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of many targets of J. Edgar Hoover [background] and his COINTELPRO program.

From 1967 to 1971 for example, the Black Panther Party was targeted for 233 of 295 COINTELPRO operations. The

The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast For Children Program was the target of numerous COINTEL PRO operations.

Party's largely-successful Free Breakfast Program for Schoolchildren particularly aroused Hoover's ire as a "most dangerous endeavor."

News stories last week generally paid little attention to the more than 6,000 pages of files dealing with COINTELPRO plots against the Black community.

What can be garnered from these reports, however, shows that FBI agents—particularly in Chicago and San Francisco, but elsewhere around the country as well—had little sympathy for the civil rights movement, while frequently using derogatory racial sterotypes and slurs to describe Black activists.

A 1968 COINTELPRO memo from the San Francisco FBI office to Washington, D.C. is typical:

"In seeking effective counterintelligence, it should perhaps be borne in mind that the two things foremost in the militant Negro's mind are sex and money. The first [sex] is often promiscuous and freely-shared. White moral standards do not apply among this type of Negro."

Another San Francisco memo in 1968 referred to one of the most frequently employed tactics of the COINTELPRO effort—"leaking" through alleged "anonymous" letters or by other means, derogatory information about one group to the news media or to allies or rivals of that group.

Other efforts sought to foment violence between Black and other minority groups.

The files made public last week—said to be 80 per cent of the 68,000 pages amassed on COINTELPRO operations—also reveal that starting in 1960, the federal police agency began an extensive campaign in New York City and Puerto Rico to disrupt and demoralize political parties advocating independence of the small, U.S.-controlled Caribbean island.

Although many pro-independence groups were targets in the campaign, the most consistent recipients of anonymous hate letters and leaflets were the Puerto Rican Independence movement and its leader, Juan Mari Bras, presently secretary-general of the mass-supported Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

Bras' heart attack in April, 1964, was one of the "positive results" the documents cite

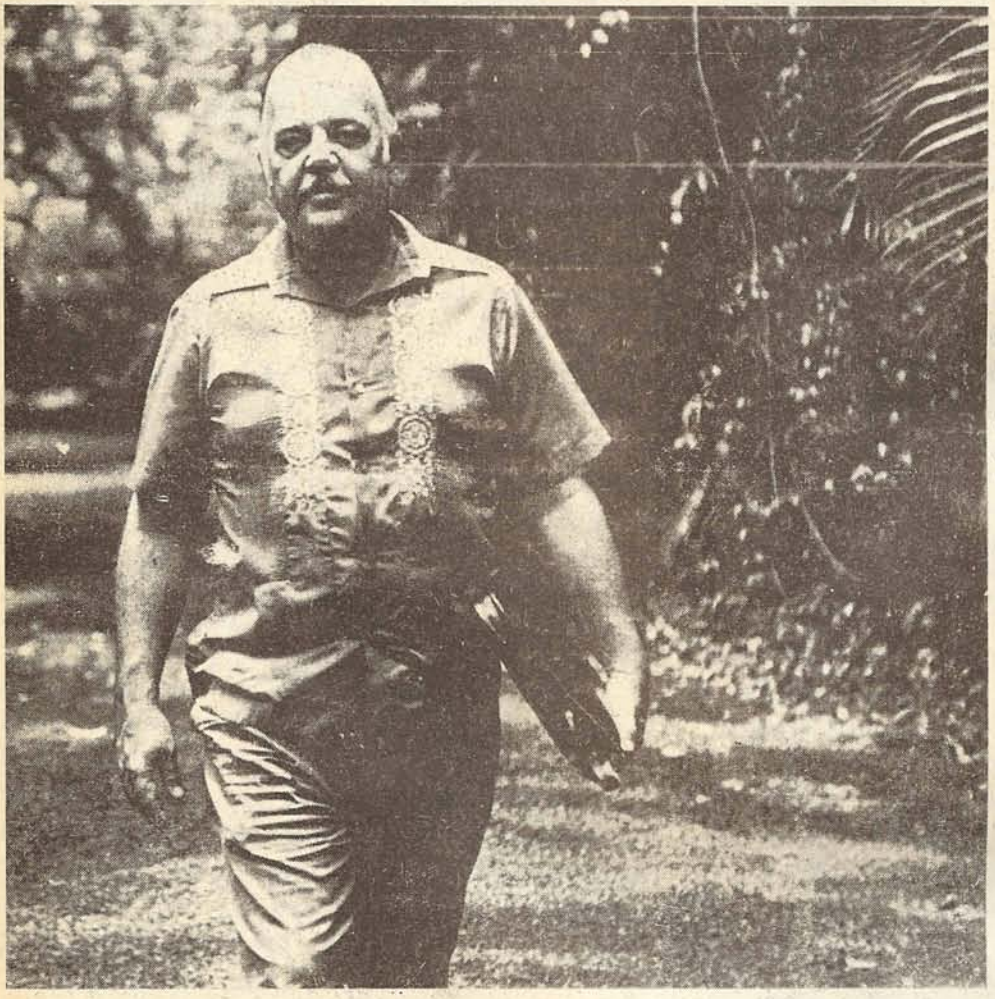
for the FBI's campaign against him and his party.

The anti-independence campaign began in 1960 with fears that the Cuban Revolution might be exported to Puerto Rico.

Originally, this FBI program was designed to disrupt parties "which seek independence of Puerto Rico through other than lawful peaceful means," yet, the documents show that at least two of the campaign's most consistent targets did not have violence as a goal.

The Puerto Rican Independence Movement, founded in 1959, "did not advocate violence but would accept anyone who believed in Puerto Rican independence," one report shows. And the Pro-Independence Federation of Universities was founded at the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras in 1956 to work for independence peacefully and reform the university.

As the COINTELPRO campaign began, informants were instructed to "report even the slightest bits of information concerning the personal lives" of their subjects in New York City. Trouble with wives, welfare boards or unemployment boards, the documents explained, could—and were—to be turned to the Bureau's advantage.



Juan Mari Bras, leader in the movement for Puerto Rican independence: "Bras' heart attack in 1964 was one of the 'positive results' the documents cite for the FBI's campaign against him and his party.

In September, 1962, a Bronx dentist sympathetic to Puerto Rican independence was the subject of an anonymous FBI letter to New York State officials. The ungrammatical letter accused the man of practicing without a license and asked, "Why don't you stop this man from hurt the Spanish people."

In 1964, the Bureau sent an anonymous letter to a man accused in a bomb plot

informing him that his estranged wife was romantically involved with Bras. "If you are too much of a fool to resent being a cuckold, I as a friend will not allow it to go on," the letter said.

On another occasion, a letter was sent to a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist League who was "known to be extremely sensitive to criticism and prone to violence." The letter, purportedly written by Mari Bras' group, was "calculated to infuriate," its recipient.

The purpose of this, according to the documents was "to promote the current ill feeling," between the two groups and "perhaps provoke further physical violence between members of these groups."

Other documents released by the FBI show that the Bureau tried to set the Communist Party and the Mafia at each other's throats. The battle they hoped would consume time, money and energy.

A fake letter written on cheap paper from a nonexistent working man was sent to three alleged Mafia leaders.

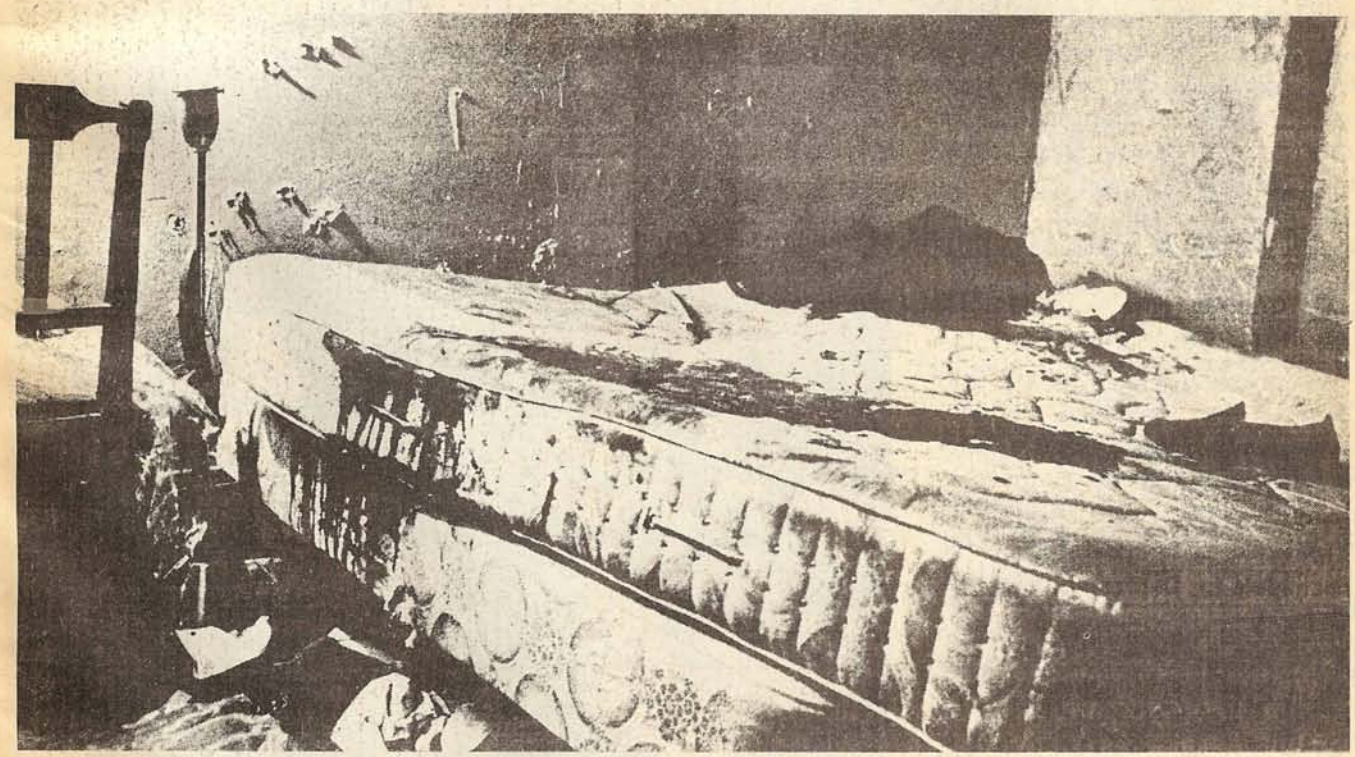
The letter said: "Some day through socialist reform, we communists will take over this country and then we will be able to fight you people good with our own bombs and guns only we'll come in the daytime—not sneak around in the dark like the shiny cockroaches you are."

Other ploys were tried, but the Bureau reported in July, 1968, that "none have produced substantial tangible results."

As the Vietnam War heated up and the antiwar movement formed, the FBI turned its COINTELPRO methods on these organizations. The papers released last week spanned a substantial number of groups.

The Bureau had COINTELPRO against Yugoslavian groups, Cuban groups and the Socialist Workers Party, as well as the Puerto Rican nationalists, left-leaning antiwar radicals, Black groups and White militants.

There was no clear formula that caused a particular group to become a target," the *New York Times* reports.□



Fred Hampton was murdered as he lay asleep in his bed, drugged by an FBI agent. FBI COINTELPRO documents show the FBI claimed credit for this raid.

National Perspective

Full Employment Bill: "Hollow Promise"

(Washington, D.C.) President Carter last month unveiled a compromise version of the controversial Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill—but in such a watered-down form that it will do almost nothing to achieve the original goal of requiring the federal government to assure a job for every American who wants one.

Titled "The Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1977," the proposed legislation neither creates new jobs nor does it mandate any specific government programs to lower the skyrocketing rates of unemployment.

Overall employment in October 1977, was 7.0 per cent, with the figure leaping to 13.9 per cent for the Black community as a whole and to 37.9 per cent for Black teenagers aged 16 to 19. These figures do not take into account the hundreds of thousands of American people who have given up looking for work and dropped out of the job market.

As presented last month by Carter, the measure, which carries the name of Senator Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Representative Augustus Hawkins of California, would set a national goal of reducing unemployment from seven per cent to four per cent in 1983, with a target of over three per cent for all adults 20 years old and over.

Yet the legislation does not authorize particular programs to achieve these goals.

So watered-down is the present version, reached after months of negotiations between Carter administration officials and Congressional sponsors of the bill, that the nation's press, almost unanimously, rejected it.

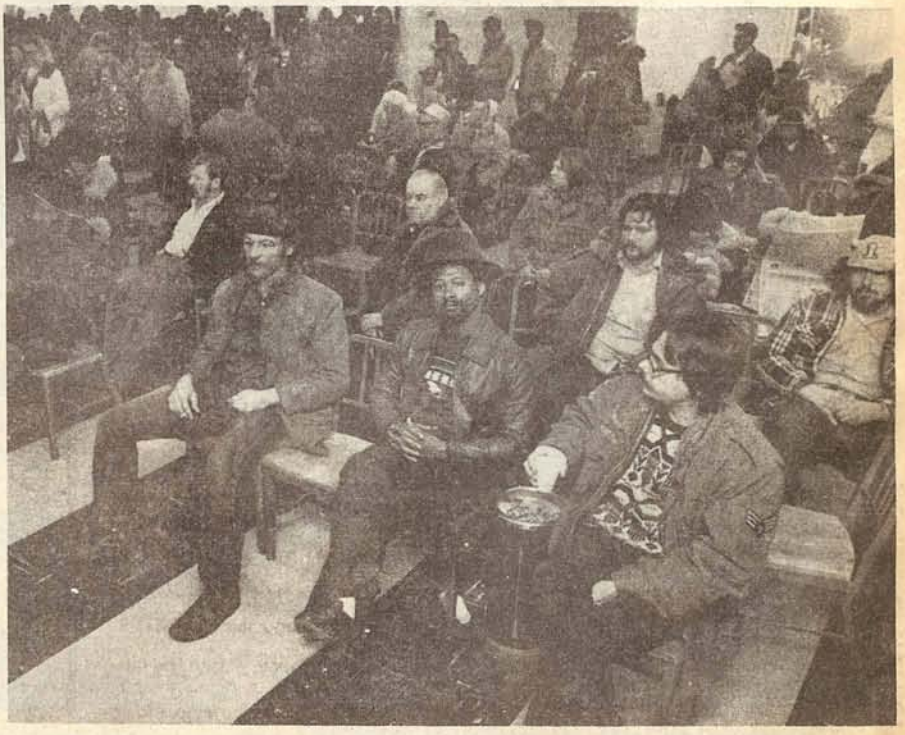
According to the *Los Angeles Times*: "...The measure will do little more than say again what the government has been saying for 30 years; that the nation should try to achieve so-called full employment....

"The compromise bill's toothless nature—conceded by sources on both sides of the negotiations—was an unusually clear reflection of the fact that conservative and liberal politicians alike are increasingly doubtful that the government can manage the nation's economy successfully.

"Another key dilution of the original bill, sources said, was the elimination of any mandatory provision for providing a government financed job for any would-be worker who could not find one in private industry.

"...Flexibility, sources said, was a key change. It was accomplished by removing language previously in the bill that would have required annual employment targets to be met, with a public accounting rendered to Congress and the public if they were not.

"Thus, the major provision left in the bill was the requirement that Presidents submit publicly each year a plan of economic management, setting targets for job expansion and other key economic variables. Carter is doing this already, to a large extent; the bill would merely



Jobless workers waiting to apply for unemployment benefits.

The watered-down version of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill will probably speak to every citizen's right to a job, but it will do little to guarantee that right.

make the process formal and mandatory for all Presidents."

The *Chicago Sun-Times* had this to say: "In a coup for the Carter administration, a coalition of Black and labor leaders has accepted a watered-down Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill that in itself wouldn't create any jobs....

"Unlike previous versions that President Carter resisted as inflationary, this one doesn't mandate or directly authorize any specific job-providing actions.

"Although a pallid shadow of the original bill, which would have required the federal government to hire everyone who couldn't find a job in private industry, the compromise bill won the unanimous endorsement of the 31-member National Committee for Full Employment....

"Since January, Carter's economic advisors have fretted about how to *get around* a campaign promise commitment Carter grudgingly made to Humphrey-Hawkins last year to appease Blacks outraged by his "ethnic purity" remark. Charles L. Schultze, Carter's top economist, vigorously opposed the measure as ill-conceived and dangerously inflationary—an opinion shared by Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal and others.

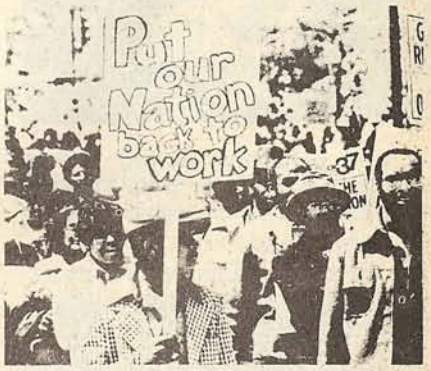
"But for political reasons, it was clear that the pledge had to be kept. Rising joblessness among Blacks and the widespread discontent of labor had undercut Carter's support in two constituencies credited with putting him in office. Any further alienation couldn't be risked.

"In the end Schultze proved to be the consummate bargainer. He talked the bill's sponsors out of about everything the administration found objectionable, transforming the legislation from big economic stimulant to a mere policy pronouncement.

"What it boils down to is a statutory affirmation that every American has the 'right' to a job without any obligation for the federal government to provide him one."

The *New York Times* editorialized: "The so-called Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill, which is about to be embraced by the White House, the Congressional Black Caucus and the nation's leading liberal politicians is not the grand achievement of modern economic policy that its proponents proclaim. It is a gesture from a government overly enchanted with symbols, a promise from a government that should mind its promises, a flag for politicians to wave when next they need to demonstrate concern for the unemployed. *It will not, however, solve the nation's unemployment problem....*

"The measure is no longer the ambitious commitment its sponsors intended in 1975. Senator Humphrey and Representative Hawkins at first proposed that the government become the employer of 'last resort' for anyone who wanted work—an idea that struck many as inflationary and unmanageable. It was meant to reduce unemployment to three per cent within 18 months. The latest Humphrey-Hawkins bill...will probably speak of every citizen's right to a job, but it will do little to guarantee that right."



Black and poor people are demanding more job opportunities. The Humphrey-Hawkins bill will do nothing concrete to create badly needed jobs.

"There may be a need for assigning new responsibility in Washington for the planning of a full employment strategy. The bill may provide this. But insofar as it pretends to produce jobs as a right of citizenship, it is a hollow promise...."□

Reprinted from "The Black Panther"

KKK Church Bomber Convicted

(Birmingham, Ala.) A former Ku Klux Klansman was found guilty of first degree murder here last week and sentenced to life imprisonment for the death of one of four young Black girls killed in the infamous September 15, 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church.

Woman collapses during funeral services for the four girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing

Robert Chambliss was convicted by a jury of nine Whites and three Blacks for the death of 11-year-old Denise McNair. The chief prosecutor in the case, Alabama Attorney General William Baxley, stated earlier that if Chambliss was convicted, he would seek further indictments in the case.

In Chambliss' trial, the state charged that the avowed racist, who has a history of Ku Klux Klan involvement and violent attacks against Black people, "Placed or caused to be placed," a timed explosive in the 16th Street Baptist Church a few hours before Sunday School classes were scheduled.

In the blast, the four girls lost their lives and 22 others were wounded as the explosion ripped through a brick and rock wall of the church. If she had lived, Ms. McNair would have celebrated her 26th birthday last week.

A major obstacle which prevented the case from coming to trial earlier, aside from the racist attitudes of Alabama officials at the time, was the FBI's refusal to divulge information which it had gathered within a few months after the bombing. Most of the evidence presented in this case came from these FBI files—which were released only within the past year.

In the four days of testimony, reports the *New York Times*, one witness testified that Chambliss had boasted that "after Sunday morning they'll beg us to let them segregate."

A fourth witness said that Chambliss remarked, after watching a television report of the blast, "it wasn't meant to hurt anybody. It didn't go off when it was supposed to."

Evidence produced by the prosecution revealed that the bomb was detonated by a timer fashioned from a water container with a small leak and a plastic float. As the water slowly leaked from the bucket and the float sank, the bomb was triggered by the completion of an electrical circuit.

In his closing arguments Baxley held up pictures of maimed bodies and shattered religious objects and told the jury, "Let the world know that this is not the way the people of Alabama feel. . . ."

The state claimed that it wanted to ask for a death penalty but couldn't due to a 1973 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court which abolished the state capital punishment law. Ironically the death sentence, before the Supreme Court ruling, was used primarily against Black and poor people in Alabama.□

Convicted bomber Richard Chambliss confers with his lawyer during his trial in Birmingham.

Midwest Immigration Workshop — Jan. 7

(Chicago, Ill.) Activists in the growing movement to defend the human and democratic rights of immigrant workers here have announced a midwest workshop to be held January 7. A focus on the opposition to Carter's amnesty proposal (expected to surface next year) and for unconditional amnesty for undocumented people is projected by workshop organizers.

During this year the media and publicity campaign increased against the undocumented worker. Major newspapers, especially in the Southwest, ran

Immigration officials deporting undocumented Mexican workers.

articles daily blaming the Mexican undocumented worker for unemployment in this country.

This national propaganda campaign was followed by anti-immigrant legislation in 22 states which prohibited the employment of undocumented workers in these areas. Although these bills failed to become law, they succeeded in building an anti-immigrant and racist anti-Mexican climate in the country. On a national level a law was enacted denying undocumented immigrant families the right to legalize their status through their U.S. citizen-born children.

This climate of racism, directed primarily against the Mexican people, has led to the brutal murder of innocent people.

"Three years ago, members of the Los Angeles Police Department killed three Mexican immigrants and did not spend a day in jail. Last year three Anglo ranchers tortured and lynched three undocumented farmworkers in Brisbee, Arizona and did not receive criminal sanction."

Organizers of the Midwest Immigration Workshop urge all progressive-minded individuals to attend the January 7 meeting to be held at St. Pious Church, 1919 S. Ashland from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.□

Workers seized in a raid by Immigration agents await deportation in Houston, Texas

Intercommunal Perspective

No Aid For Executioners

(Chicago, Ill.) The repressive regime of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has sentenced three political prisoners to death. The Chicago Anti-Martial Law Coalition, branding these un-

Protesting three Filipino political prisoners receiving the death sentence, the Chicago Anti-Martial Law Coalition demonstrates at the Philippine Consulate.

precedented death sentences a desperate act, held a demonstration November 28 in front of the Philippine consulate in Chicago to protest the sentences and continued U.S. support for dictator Marcos.

Since 1972 when Marcos declared martial law, 60,000 Filipinos have been detained for months and even years without trials, according to the human rights organizations, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists. The only trials to take place have been military tribunals, trying civilians as well as military personnel. Investigations by the two international organizations also reveal that 1,400 of 6,000 detainees are political prisoners. Never before have political prisoners been formally tried and then sentenced to be executed, though many people arrested under martial law have never been heard of since. It is also estimated that over the last five years since the beginning of martial law, 70 per cent of the political prisoners have been tortured.

The three sentenced men are former Senator Benigno Aquino; Bernabe Buscayno (Commander Dante), former Commander-in-Chief of the New People's Army (NPA); and Victor Corpuz, a former lieutenant in the Philippine Constabulary (state police) who defected to the NPA in December 1970. Before martial law was imposed, Aquino was the most likely contender of the Liberal Party in the presidential election which was to be held in 1973. Marcos, unable to run for another term in the 1973 elections, declared martial law in order to maintain his rule in the Philippines.

Corpuz and Dante are both regarded as folk heroes in the anti-martial law movement in the Philippines. Since the time of their arrests they have refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Military Commission which was to eventually try and convict them, and they have refused to leave their cells to attend hearings or conduct any defense. Evangeline Avila, a spokesperson for the Chicago Anti-Martial Law Coalition, including the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), Friends of the Filipino People and other interested individuals, declared the death sentences "a desperate move by Marcos because of the recent upsurge of the resistance movement in the cities and the resumption of war in the south by the Muslim minority (for independence). Marcos is trying to show the CIA that he is still in control."

Ms. Avila, a member of KDP, explained that because of the worsening economic situation in the Philippines under martial law, and the growing resistance movement, Marcos is afraid of the CIA coup d'etat against his regime.

Ed Escultura, speaking to the 50 Filipinos and U.S. supporters at the November 28 demonstration, said that the purpose of the demonstration was to "Save the lives of the three captured men." "The U.S. people," he said, "through their tax dollars, are supporting the Marcos regime and its repressive tactics." At present the U.S. is renegotiating the military bases treaty with Marcos. Because the U.S. Congress is under pressure to deny military aid to governments that deny "human rights," Marcos is now demanding that the U.S. pay $1 billion in rent for the bases to insure the financial aid needed to prop up his besieged regime.□

Ed Escultura: "The U.S. people, through their tax dollars, are supporting the Marcos regime and its repressive tactics."

THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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25¢

The Intercommunal Survival Committee, responsible for **KEEP STRONG**, has been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 7 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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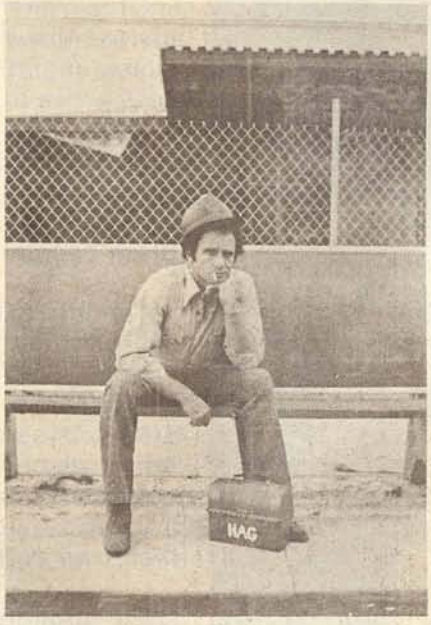
Entertainment

A Working Man Can't Get Nowhere Today

The blurb on "The Hag's" new album says, "This is an album that pertains to a variety of subjects that, when listened to, most everyone will inherit a better understanding of the working classes in America." Maybe so, maybe not.

Everyone who enjoys country music will warm right up to this country music superstar's memories of Lefty Frizzel, which Merle counts as a personal tribute to a man who was one of the main influences in his career. And "When My Last Song Is Sung" and "Running Kind" are soulful additions to the long list of Haggard-composed plain good music. Also, his version of the great Hank Williams' "Moanin' the Blues" brings back the best of remembrances of that long-time favorite.

The title song, "A Working Man Can't Get Nowhere Today," is a good update of "Working Man's Blues," that shows the Hag is definitely keeping pace with the frustration of working people falling deeper and deeper into debt, while we work harder and harder to get out. It's bound to be close to the top single of the year.



But in the last cut on side two, Merle has written and sung a song that needs to be talked about. Called, "I'm A White Boy," it is one of his most jumping, humming tunes. But it is not just the tune that sticks in your mind and causes you to go back and play this cut over and over again. This song makes it very clear that Merle, and those of us he sings for, are White: "I'm not Black and I'm not Yellow. I'm proud and White." It's almost such a good song. Because it's time people realized that every White person is not a contented, well-paid, pensioned up, health insured, securely employed worker. It's time people paid attention to the fact that a lot of us are poor and White and still proud.

But it's not such a good song. Because Merle Haggard, although talking straight to us, puts us in the same old bag. It's the man's stereotype of us that being proud means we look down on Black people. It's the man's stereotype that to be willing to fight to be somebody means we're "ready to fight the niggers." Some of us still think this old way, but a lot of us don't. Some of us are White and proud and know just exactly who has their heel on our necks—and it's not a Black or White mother struggling through on welfare to raise the children that are our future. Our music—"A guitar and a fiddle are the kind of soul that fans my flame"—is not antagonistic to the music of Black people. Matter of fact, both Black and country soul do a lot of crossing over.

Don't put us in a bag, Hag. Not in the man's bag. But don't stop turning out that good sound, either.□

"The Godfather" On TV

When they showed *The Godfather* on TV novel-form, it was still the kind of movie that was over too soon. The viewer still, as in the movie, wanted to go on living in the life of *The Godfather* for a few more hours.

Even on TV, *The Godfather* provided some important lessons of organization, unity, discipline and loyalty for any people trying to organize for self-determination and power.

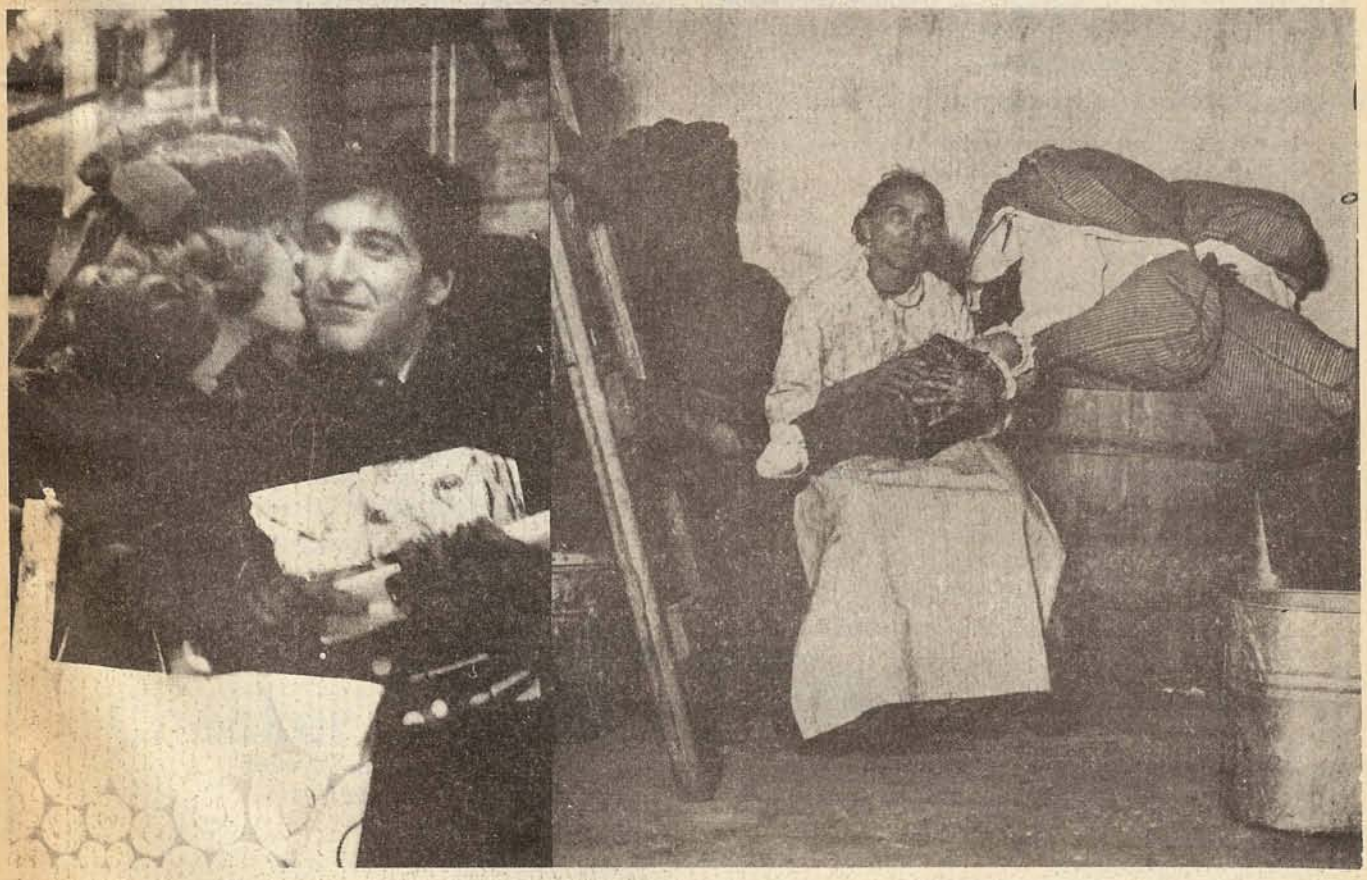
But putting *The Godfather* on TV did something to it. Suddenly, it was just one more cops and robbers film, in between *Starsky and Hutch* and *The Rockford Files*, playing to this country's fascination with crime and law enforcement. Because in the end Michael Corleone's choices in life are limited and wrong.

Michael has to choose between his girlfriend-wife Kay, who represents the American way of life, and the family business, which represents a small group of gangsters living off the tradition of Sicilian oppression and resistance while exploiting and plundering even their own people. Michael has to choose between the American idea of making it big as an illegal gangster and making it big as an apple pie American hero citizen patriotic good guy.

Michael, of course, finds the solution, guided by the Godfather's wisdom. By playing his cards right, the family hard-core street crime business can slowly become legitimate. Following in the great American tradition, the family can become legal gangsters, using lawyers instead of hit men. Michael resolves his little contradiction and gets the best of both worlds.

So *The Godfather* is, in the end, the ultimate cops and robbers TV show. The robber, who even the most dedicated law and order fanatic is always secretly pulling for, is so successful that he is on the road to becoming an establishment celebrity.

What about the Italians who came over on the same boats and walked into the same prejudice and poverty that the Corleones did? Where is the movie about those who did not buy the American dream in either its legal or illegal gangster form because they could not afford it?□



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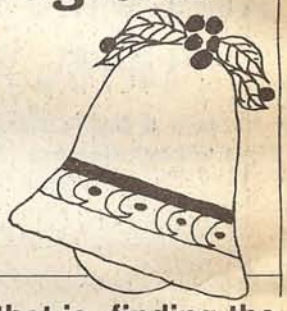

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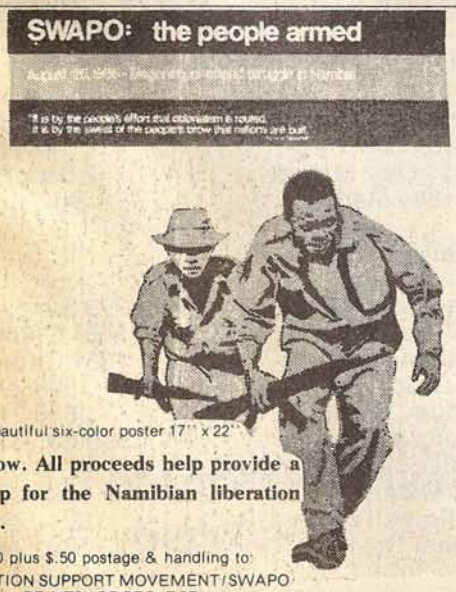

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